



IN THE MAGAZINE

## THE GREAT ESCAPE: HOLIDAYS FOR MIND, BODY AND SPIRIT

IN THE REVIEW

**ROD: D'YA  
THINK I'M  
STILL SEXY**

PAGE 9



# Ditch Ashdown, ministers tell Blair

TONY BLAIR is facing a rebellion by the Cabinet's three "heavy-hitters" over Labour's close links with the Liberal Democrats in a move that puts a new question mark over the future of Paddy Ashdown.

John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, Gordon Brown, the Chancellor and Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, are to join forces in an attempt to prevent Mr Blair calling a referendum on electoral reform before the next general election.

Mr Brown's opposition could hamper Mr Blair's attempts to

BY ANDREW GRICE  
AND COLIN BROWN  
in Cape Town

put on a united front with his Chancellor: after faction-fighting between their respective allies was blamed for the resignations of two senior ministers - Peter Mandelson and Geoff Robinson - and Charlie Whelan, Mr Brown's press secretary.

A source close to Mr Brown said: "He doesn't understand why we need to offer the Lib Dems proportional representation [PR]. He believes first-

past-the-post is a better, more clear-cut system."

Mr Brown, Mr Prescott and Mr Straw are increasingly confident of blocking a referendum since the departure of Mr Mandelson, who was the Cabinet's strongest supporter of closer Lib-Lab relations.

Sources close to Mr Blair conceded yesterday that an early referendum was "less likely" but insisted the Prime Minister could still call one before the next election if he felt he could win public support for a new voting system for Westminster.

Mr Blair insisted this week that links with the Liberal Democrats would "intensify" but senior ministers claim he is in a clear minority in his own Cabinet. "The balance of forces on this issue has changed considerably," said one.

Mr Ashdown, already under fire in his own party for "cosying up" to Mr Blair, is bracing himself for further criticism as the prospect of a referendum recedes.

Although the Liberal Democrat leader's critics will not move against him in the run-up

to elections to local authorities, the Scottish and Welsh assemblies and the European Parliament this spring, he will face a showdown over Lib-Lab relations at his party's conference in Harrogate in September.

There could be moves to replace Mr Ashdown with a leader less keen on close links with Mr Blair, such as Charles Kennedy, the agriculture spokesman, or Simon Hughes, the health spokesman.

Last night, Mr Ashdown's allies doubted that his opponents would force a leadership contest

and said he would not consider standing down until after the next general election. "He doesn't think there is a successor; he is still enjoying things and achieving things," said one.

In a further blow to Mr Ashdown, opposition to electoral reform inside the Labour Party has forced Mr Blair to put off a decision on the issue until autumn 2000, further reducing the prospect of a referendum before the next election, expected in 2001.

Supporters of reform had hoped that the Labour confer-

ence in October this year would decide on plans by a commission headed by Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, which recommended a watered-down form of PR called the "alternative vote plus".

The Prime Minister said the Jenkins report made "a well-argued and powerful case" but has put off a decision in the hope of winning over hostile Labour activists and MPs. "The driving force for closer Lib-Lab links was not Peter Mandelson; it was Tony Blair," one Blair aide said last night.

A defiant Mr Blair declared

there would be no turning back from Labour's "third way" policies and rejected a return to old Labour policies.

Speaking in Cape Town as he completed his three-day trip to South Africa, he said: "The answer to all the world's ills can't be to spend more public money or run the public sector in the same old way," he said. "The new centre and centre-left in politics has to create its own constituency among the people." Monday man wavers, page 8; Under fire, page 14; Leading article, Review, page 3

## Britons in Yemen jail shot, claim families

TWO of the five British men being detained in Yemen in connection with terrorist charges have been shot while in prison, lawyers acting for them said yesterday.

But the claims were discounted by British officials who have been in contact with the Yemeni Interior Minister and the Head of Security for Aden. The Foreign Office said it had not had any consular access to the men by last night, however, amid growing anxiety about them.

An earlier claim that all the men have been tortured by the Yemeni authorities was also repeated by the men's families.

Mr Rashad Yaqoob, of the Association of Moslem Lawyers, said that the mother of one of the men had been told by a prison source that two of them had been shot at. "We have information that the family of Malik Nassar Hachra received a phone call from a person with a link in the Yemeni prison, but as of yet the extent of the injuries is unknown," he said. "Lawyers helping me in Aden have told me that all the prisoners have suffered inhuman treatment."

It was also revealed that the five men had all travelled separately to the Yemen last month, and did not know each other. They are Mousin Ghafail, 18; Shahid Butt, 33; Malik Nassar Harbra, 26; Samad Ahmed, 21 and Ghulain Hussein, 25, all from Birmingham. They are

being held with Lebourdine Pierrick James, 30, from France.

The Yemeni authorities have said that the men were part of the Islamic extremist group responsible for the kidnap of 16 Westerners last month, and that they had been planning terrorist attacks. Kidnappers from the militant group Al Jihad took 16 western hostages on December 28, and four were killed in a rescue attempt the next day. The Yemenis have claimed that the kidnappers were demanding the release of the arrested men.

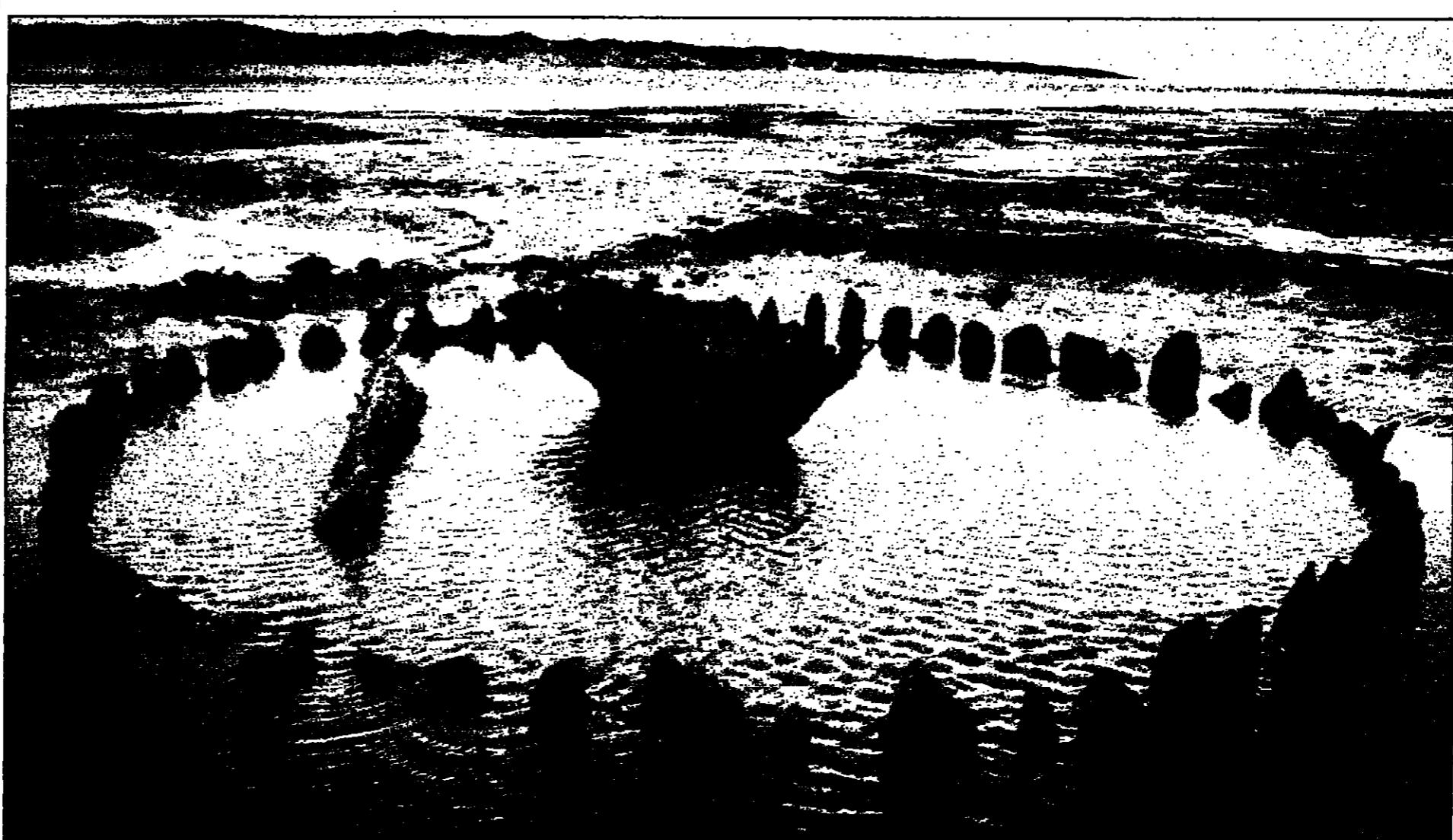
The Yemeni Embassy in London said that the men had been arrested on December 24 and claimed they were "planning to carry out terrorist acts in the country prior to the Abyan kidnapping".

The British consul general in Aden David Pearce said of the shooting claims: "I am as confident as I can be that this report is not correct."

Families of the men yesterday pleaded with the Yemeni government to release them, amid fears that the men could be tried and executed as soon as this weekend, although it was thought a trial would not be held during Ramadan, which has over a week to run.

The relatives deny that any of the men have done anything wrong and are planning a demonstration in London.

## Shifting sands yield 'Stonehenge of the sea'



The mysterious 'tree temple' on the north Norfolk coast. Unless action is taken the 4,000-year-old circle may disappear for ever Mark Brennan/Norfolk Archaeology Unit

IT IS one of the eeriest and most mysterious ancient monuments discovered in Britain.

A massive oak tree stuck into the ground upside down with its great spread of roots pointing skywards, stands surrounded by a palisade-like circle of oak trunks. And it just emerged in October.

The site, on the lonely coast at Holme-next-the-Sea near Hunstanton, is almost certainly a ritual and probably to do with

BY MICHAEL MCCARTHY  
Environment Correspondent

death. Within its oval ring of 54 posts is the inverted oak tree with its roots, "like a table with fingers", says Dr Francis Pryor, president of the Council for British Archaeology. He believes it is very likely to have been some form of altar.

The tree-temple - if that is what it is - has been uncovered by tidal erosion. It is thought to have been constructed in the early Bronze Age, between

2,000 and 1,200 BC, which would make it almost a contemporary of Stonehenge.

The site, says Dr Pryor, is the most extraordinary archaeological discovery he has ever seen and it must be preserved.

However, unless difficult decisions are taken soon about preserving it, it is likely to be destroyed by the action of the tides within two years. No decision can be made until the site

is precisely dated. Carbon-dating of the wood is being carried out.

An excavation led by Mark Brennan of Norfolk County Council's Archaeology Unit suggests that the tree-temple was constructed on swampy ground some way inland, which the sea covered at a later date.

Mr Brennan believes the purpose of the site was probably incarnation - the practice

of exposing the bodies of the dead so that the flesh rotted more quickly, thus, it was thought, speeding the spirit on its way to the afterlife.

Dr Pryor added that for our ancestors oak was a special wood: "The inverted oak is not just utilitarian, a simple way of making an altar. It is a very complex symbolic statement. Perhaps a little sinister. It is the world turned upside down."

### INSIDE THIS SECTION

Police officer suspended  
Surrey's Deputy Chief  
Constable is suspended after  
"harassment" allegations  
Home P2

Private firms in education  
The Government will advise  
today for private firms to run  
local education services  
Home P9

Saddam fights for control  
Saddam Hussein is reported  
to be taking "desperate"  
steps to retain control of Iraq  
Foreign P15

Brewery battle intensifies  
The bid battle for Marston  
Thompson & Evershed took  
an unprecedented twist  
Business P18

### INSIDE THE REVIEW

The Saturday Essay  
Kenneth Minogue on why our  
desire to conform is crushing  
the human spirit  
Comment P7

Stephen Poliakoff  
The playwright talks about  
how his new TV drama is  
'radically old-fashioned'  
Arts P12

Anna Pavord  
How much does your  
garden really cost you every  
year to run?  
Gardening P17

Nurses backed over pay  
Frank Dobson backs nurses'  
claims for higher pay  
Home P4

Clinton compromise  
Senate leader reaches a  
compromise over Clinton trial  
Foreign P15

Salt Lake City row  
Two members resign from  
Olympic organising committee  
Foreign P15

Cricket bribery scandal  
A bookmaker gave Shane  
Warne \$5,000 in a casino  
Sport P26

LETTERS 2, LEADERS 3, COMMENT 4-7, FEATURES 8-9, OBITUARIES 10-11, ARTS & BOOKS 12-15, COUNTRY & GARDEN 17-18, TRAVEL 19-25, RADIO 31

Hungary 295 Lkr Italy 5,000 L Malta 0.65c Norway 25.00 Nkr Singapore 333.55 Sweden 23.00 Skr Turkey 1,250,000 Lira

Israel 12.00 Shk Luxembourg 60.00 Lfr Netherlands 5.50 guilder Portugal 350 Es Spain 325 Pts Switzerland 5.00 Sfr USA 33.50

01  
9 770951 946566  
TODAY'S TELEVISION  
PAGE 32

New York  
£199 rtn

World Offers.  
Flight prices from:  
Cyprus £149 rtn

South of France  
£129 rtn

For thousands of World Offers call  
0345 222111 Book by 27th January '99.  
or see your Travel Agent

Fares are return from London and subject to availability and travel periods vary. Includes taxes, correct at 2.12.98. For details see ITV Teletext p.380, your British Airways Travel Shop or book and pay at our Web site: www.britishairways.com

WORLD OFFERS  
BRITISH AIRWAYS  
The world's favourite airline



IN TOMORROW'S INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY

'Michael has been accused of using his friends to his own advantage and, once they have been sucked dry, of promptly dropping them. But friendships do wear out'

Julian Critchley on his old friend



THE BEST-WRITTEN SUNDAY PAPER IN BRITAIN, FEATURING JAN MORRIS, JONATHAN DIMBLEBY, RUTH PADEL, JEREMY CLARKE, JUSTIN CARTWRIGHT, PETER YORK, JOAN SMITH, GILBERT ADAIR, MICHAEL BYWATER, DAVID THOMSON, DEAR ANNIE AND CAPTAIN MOONLIGHT

# Excluded countries hurry to join euro

A WEEK after the launch of the euro, two of the four EU 'outs', Denmark and Sweden, are sending clear signals of their desire to sign up to the single currency as soon as possible — heightening the risk that Britain will much sooner than expected be left in the sole company of Greece outside the system.

In Denmark, traditionally a Eurosceptic redoubt, successive opinion polls since November have produced clear majorities in favour of joining. The most recent, on Thursday, showed 50 per cent of the public in favour of membership, with 32 per cent opposed and 16 per cent undecided.

This survey came hard on the heels of a powerful endorsement of the euro by the Danish Prime Minister, Poul Nyrup Rasmussen, and a prediction by Marianne Jelved, the Economy Minister, that growing public support would allow the referendum required to approve membership to be held well before 2001, previously considered the earliest possible date.

Thus Denmark could enter the system well before euro notes and coins replace national currencies in mid-2002.

The reasons for Denmark's apparent conversion are the smooth debut of the single currency, after months during which the euro had shown its worth as a shield against global currency turbulence, and the growing fear that the country simply could not afford to sit on the sidelines.

In Sweden, such arguments resonate even more strongly. The moment of truth came in

high summer, as the Asian crisis, followed by financial meltdown in Russia, threatened to turn Nordic financial markets inside out.

In the event, Sweden (as well as Norway, which is not an EU member) took a buffering.

But not neighbouring Finland, despite its common border and long historical associations with the former Soviet Union.

In both Scandinavian countries, as in Britain, industry is strongly in favour of the euro.

Like Britain, both Denmark and Sweden easily meet the economic qualifications for membership.

Unlike Britain, however, fears over being marginalised in Europe now outweigh reluctance to make the surrender of national sovereignty implicit in the euro.

Thus, in contrast to Tony Blair, the Swedish Prime Minister, Goran Persson, has just called for an early decision by his ruling Social Democratic party on whether to join the single currency. This could come at a special party congress early next year, opening the way for a referendum to approve entry later in 2000.

If Denmark and Sweden enter, only Britain and Greece would be left out by the time euro notes and coins are circulating. By then Greece could be on the point of joining. Failure to meet the economic criteria rather than domestic political opposition kept Athens out at the first time of asking. Greece now aims to join by 2004 at the latest.

Thus Denmark could enter the system well before euro notes and coins replace national currencies in mid-2002.

The reasons for Denmark's apparent conversion are the smooth debut of the single currency, after months during which the euro had shown its worth as a shield against global currency turbulence, and the growing fear that the country simply could not afford to sit on the sidelines.

In Sweden, such arguments resonate even more strongly. The moment of truth came in

high summer, as the Asian crisis, followed by financial meltdown in Russia, threatened to turn Nordic financial markets inside out.

In the event, Sweden (as well as Norway, which is not an EU member) took a buffering.

But not neighbouring Finland, despite its common border and long historical associations with the former Soviet Union.

In both Scandinavian countries, as in Britain, industry is strongly in favour of the euro.

Like Britain, both Denmark and Sweden easily meet the economic qualifications for membership.

Unlike Britain, however, fears over being marginalised in Europe now outweigh reluctance to make the surrender of national sovereignty implicit in the euro.

Thus, in contrast to Tony Blair, the Swedish Prime Minister, Goran Persson, has just called for an early decision by his ruling Social Democratic party on whether to join the single currency. This could come at a special party congress early next year, opening the way for a referendum to approve entry later in 2000.

If Denmark and Sweden enter, only Britain and Greece would be left out by the time euro notes and coins are circulating. By then Greece could be on the point of joining. Failure to meet the economic criteria rather than domestic political opposition kept Athens out at the first time of asking. Greece now aims to join by 2004 at the latest.

Thus Denmark could enter the system well before euro notes and coins replace national currencies in mid-2002.

The reasons for Denmark's apparent conversion are the smooth debut of the single currency, after months during which the euro had shown its worth as a shield against global currency turbulence, and the growing fear that the country simply could not afford to sit on the sidelines.

In Sweden, such arguments resonate even more strongly. The moment of truth came in

high summer, as the Asian crisis, followed by financial meltdown in Russia, threatened to turn Nordic financial markets inside out.

In the event, Sweden (as well as Norway, which is not an EU member) took a buffering.

But not neighbouring Finland, despite its common border and long historical associations with the former Soviet Union.

In both Scandinavian countries, as in Britain, industry is strongly in favour of the euro.

Like Britain, both Denmark and Sweden easily meet the economic qualifications for membership.

Unlike Britain, however, fears over being marginalised in Europe now outweigh reluctance to make the surrender of national sovereignty implicit in the euro.

Thus, in contrast to Tony Blair, the Swedish Prime Minister, Goran Persson, has just called for an early decision by his ruling Social Democratic party on whether to join the single currency. This could come at a special party congress early next year, opening the way for a referendum to approve entry later in 2000.

If Denmark and Sweden enter, only Britain and Greece would be left out by the time euro notes and coins are circulating. By then Greece could be on the point of joining. Failure to meet the economic criteria rather than domestic political opposition kept Athens out at the first time of asking. Greece now aims to join by 2004 at the latest.

Thus Denmark could enter the system well before euro notes and coins replace national currencies in mid-2002.

The reasons for Denmark's apparent conversion are the smooth debut of the single currency, after months during which the euro had shown its worth as a shield against global currency turbulence, and the growing fear that the country simply could not afford to sit on the sidelines.

In Sweden, such arguments resonate even more strongly. The moment of truth came in

high summer, as the Asian crisis, followed by financial meltdown in Russia, threatened to turn Nordic financial markets inside out.

In the event, Sweden (as well as Norway, which is not an EU member) took a buffering.

But not neighbouring Finland, despite its common border and long historical associations with the former Soviet Union.

In both Scandinavian countries, as in Britain, industry is strongly in favour of the euro.

Like Britain, both Denmark and Sweden easily meet the economic qualifications for membership.

Unlike Britain, however, fears over being marginalised in Europe now outweigh reluctance to make the surrender of national sovereignty implicit in the euro.

Thus, in contrast to Tony Blair, the Swedish Prime Minister, Goran Persson, has just called for an early decision by his ruling Social Democratic party on whether to join the single currency. This could come at a special party congress early next year, opening the way for a referendum to approve entry later in 2000.

If Denmark and Sweden enter, only Britain and Greece would be left out by the time euro notes and coins are circulating. By then Greece could be on the point of joining. Failure to meet the economic criteria rather than domestic political opposition kept Athens out at the first time of asking. Greece now aims to join by 2004 at the latest.

Thus Denmark could enter the system well before euro notes and coins replace national currencies in mid-2002.

The reasons for Denmark's apparent conversion are the smooth debut of the single currency, after months during which the euro had shown its worth as a shield against global currency turbulence, and the growing fear that the country simply could not afford to sit on the sidelines.

In Sweden, such arguments resonate even more strongly. The moment of truth came in

high summer, as the Asian crisis, followed by financial meltdown in Russia, threatened to turn Nordic financial markets inside out.

In the event, Sweden (as well as Norway, which is not an EU member) took a buffering.

But not neighbouring Finland, despite its common border and long historical associations with the former Soviet Union.

In both Scandinavian countries, as in Britain, industry is strongly in favour of the euro.

Like Britain, both Denmark and Sweden easily meet the economic qualifications for membership.

Unlike Britain, however, fears over being marginalised in Europe now outweigh reluctance to make the surrender of national sovereignty implicit in the euro.

Thus, in contrast to Tony Blair, the Swedish Prime Minister, Goran Persson, has just called for an early decision by his ruling Social Democratic party on whether to join the single currency. This could come at a special party congress early next year, opening the way for a referendum to approve entry later in 2000.

If Denmark and Sweden enter, only Britain and Greece would be left out by the time euro notes and coins are circulating. By then Greece could be on the point of joining. Failure to meet the economic criteria rather than domestic political opposition kept Athens out at the first time of asking. Greece now aims to join by 2004 at the latest.

Thus Denmark could enter the system well before euro notes and coins replace national currencies in mid-2002.

The reasons for Denmark's apparent conversion are the smooth debut of the single currency, after months during which the euro had shown its worth as a shield against global currency turbulence, and the growing fear that the country simply could not afford to sit on the sidelines.

In Sweden, such arguments resonate even more strongly. The moment of truth came in

high summer, as the Asian crisis, followed by financial meltdown in Russia, threatened to turn Nordic financial markets inside out.

In the event, Sweden (as well as Norway, which is not an EU member) took a buffering.

But not neighbouring Finland, despite its common border and long historical associations with the former Soviet Union.

In both Scandinavian countries, as in Britain, industry is strongly in favour of the euro.

Like Britain, both Denmark and Sweden easily meet the economic qualifications for membership.

Unlike Britain, however, fears over being marginalised in Europe now outweigh reluctance to make the surrender of national sovereignty implicit in the euro.

Thus, in contrast to Tony Blair, the Swedish Prime Minister, Goran Persson, has just called for an early decision by his ruling Social Democratic party on whether to join the single currency. This could come at a special party congress early next year, opening the way for a referendum to approve entry later in 2000.

If Denmark and Sweden enter, only Britain and Greece would be left out by the time euro notes and coins are circulating. By then Greece could be on the point of joining. Failure to meet the economic criteria rather than domestic political opposition kept Athens out at the first time of asking. Greece now aims to join by 2004 at the latest.

Thus Denmark could enter the system well before euro notes and coins replace national currencies in mid-2002.

The reasons for Denmark's apparent conversion are the smooth debut of the single currency, after months during which the euro had shown its worth as a shield against global currency turbulence, and the growing fear that the country simply could not afford to sit on the sidelines.

In Sweden, such arguments resonate even more strongly. The moment of truth came in

high summer, as the Asian crisis, followed by financial meltdown in Russia, threatened to turn Nordic financial markets inside out.

In the event, Sweden (as well as Norway, which is not an EU member) took a buffering.

But not neighbouring Finland, despite its common border and long historical associations with the former Soviet Union.

In both Scandinavian countries, as in Britain, industry is strongly in favour of the euro.

Like Britain, both Denmark and Sweden easily meet the economic qualifications for membership.

Unlike Britain, however, fears over being marginalised in Europe now outweigh reluctance to make the surrender of national sovereignty implicit in the euro.

Thus, in contrast to Tony Blair, the Swedish Prime Minister, Goran Persson, has just called for an early decision by his ruling Social Democratic party on whether to join the single currency. This could come at a special party congress early next year, opening the way for a referendum to approve entry later in 2000.

If Denmark and Sweden enter, only Britain and Greece would be left out by the time euro notes and coins are circulating. By then Greece could be on the point of joining. Failure to meet the economic criteria rather than domestic political opposition kept Athens out at the first time of asking. Greece now aims to join by 2004 at the latest.

Thus Denmark could enter the system well before euro notes and coins replace national currencies in mid-2002.

The reasons for Denmark's apparent conversion are the smooth debut of the single currency, after months during which the euro had shown its worth as a shield against global currency turbulence, and the growing fear that the country simply could not afford to sit on the sidelines.

In Sweden, such arguments resonate even more strongly. The moment of truth came in

high summer, as the Asian crisis, followed by financial meltdown in Russia, threatened to turn Nordic financial markets inside out.

In the event, Sweden (as well as Norway, which is not an EU member) took a buffering.

But not neighbouring Finland, despite its common border and long historical associations with the former Soviet Union.

In both Scandinavian countries, as in Britain, industry is strongly in favour of the euro.

Like Britain, both Denmark and Sweden easily meet the economic qualifications for membership.

Unlike Britain, however, fears over being marginalised in Europe now outweigh reluctance to make the surrender of national sovereignty implicit in the euro.

Thus, in contrast to Tony Blair, the Swedish Prime Minister, Goran Persson, has just called for an early decision by his ruling Social Democratic party on whether to join the single currency. This could come at a special party congress early next year, opening the way for a referendum to approve entry later in 2000.

If Denmark and Sweden enter, only Britain and Greece would be left out by the time euro notes and coins are circulating. By then Greece could be on the point of joining. Failure to meet the economic criteria rather than domestic political opposition kept Athens out at the first time of asking. Greece now aims to join by 2004 at the latest.

Thus Denmark could enter the system well before euro notes and coins replace national currencies in mid-2002.

The reasons for Denmark's apparent conversion are the smooth debut of the single currency, after months during which the euro had shown its worth as a shield against global currency turbulence, and the growing fear that the country simply could not afford to sit on the sidelines.

In Sweden, such arguments resonate even more strongly. The moment of truth came in

high summer, as the Asian crisis, followed by financial meltdown in Russia, threatened to turn Nordic financial markets inside out.

In the event, Sweden (as well as Norway, which is not an EU member) took a buffering.

But not neighbouring Finland, despite its common border and long historical associations with the former Soviet Union.

In both Scandinavian countries, as in Britain, industry is strongly in favour of the euro.

Like Britain, both Denmark and Sweden easily meet the economic qualifications for membership.

Unlike Britain, however, fears over being marginalised in Europe now outweigh reluctance to make the surrender of national sovereignty implicit in the euro.

Thus, in contrast to Tony Blair, the Swedish Prime Minister, Goran Persson, has just called for an early decision by his ruling Social Democratic party on whether to join the single currency. This could come at a special party congress early next year, opening the way for a referendum to approve entry later in 2000.

If Denmark and Sweden enter, only Britain and Greece would be left out by the time euro notes and coins are circulating. By then Greece could be on the point of joining. Failure to meet the economic criteria rather than domestic political opposition kept Athens out at the first time of asking. Greece now aims to join by 2004 at the latest.

Thus Denmark could enter the system well before euro notes and coins replace national currencies in mid-2002.

The reasons for Denmark's apparent conversion are the smooth debut of the single currency, after months during which the euro had shown its worth as a shield against global currency turbulence, and the growing fear that the country simply could not afford to sit on the sidelines.

In Sweden, such arguments resonate even more strongly. The moment of truth came in

high summer, as the Asian crisis, followed by financial meltdown in Russia, threatened to turn Nordic financial markets inside out.

In the event, Sweden (as well as Norway, which is not an EU member) took a buffering.

But not neighbouring Finland, despite its common border and long historical associations with the former Soviet Union.

In both Scandinavian countries, as in Britain, industry is strongly in favour of the euro.

## THE FIVE TRIBES OF CONSERVATIVE WOMEN



SUBURBAN QUEEN

LOUD AND PROUD

THE MATRON

LADY BOUNTIFUL

HAGUE BABE

**DAME JILL KNIGHT**  
Quintessential Edgbaston Tory madame. Hyacinth Bucket loves her! Big hair, big eyes, big dresses, and very big on loyalty. Paid-up member of hang 'em and flog 'em and heavily involved in Townswomen's Guilds. Uncompromising views. Enthusiast of tapestry.

**TERESA GORMAN**  
Libertarian. Billericay woman to the core. Wants out of Europe now, if not sooner, than later. Paid-up member of hang 'em and flog 'em and heavily involved in Townswomen's Guilds. Uncompromising views. Enthusiast of tapestry.

**ANN WIDDECOMBE**  
Hattie Jacques of the Tories. The woman who assassinated Michael Howard by saying he had "something of the night" about him. Good sport, superb speaker, fervent anti-abortionist. Spends her spare time researching Charles II's escape. Has risen above Doris Karloff taunts.

**VIRGINIA BOTTOMLEY**  
Former psychiatric social worker turned politician. The caring, if bland, face of the Tories but was too robotic on TV for her own good. Very Marks & Spencer and fragrant too. From grand old family whose members believe in public service above all.

**Julie Kirkbride**  
Young, working-class and a true believer in the Portillo way. Only a few years ago was just another journalist in a black leather skirt. Married to Northern Ireland spokesman Andrew Mackay. Tipped to go all the way to the middle.

# Wanted: ambitious women for safe Tory seats; blue rinses needn't apply

BY ANN TRENEGAN

BLAIR HAS his 101 "Babes", Hague only has 14. The Tories have suddenly decided this is not good enough.

William Hague has said that wants to change all this, and yesterday it was reported that the party has set a secret target of putting up 250 female candidates to fight the next general election.

Central Office denies there is a quota but Roger Freeman, who is overseeing candidate selection, says he hopes to recruit an array of high-calibre women who will prove irresistible to the selection panel. A lot of high-calibre women will say that the selection panels found them mysteriously easy to resist but wish him well anyway.

Everyone says that in the Labour Party the men discrimi-

"I've been to so many meetings against the women, but in the Tory party it is the women who do the discriminating. Not the voters, but those who sit on the selection committees.

"It was just plain old-fashioned jealousy," says one MP. These Tory women are not so much true blue as blue rinses and they have had little to offer their party but time. So why would they want a young thrusting female MP? Why take a chance on all those hormones when you could get a nice barista in a pin stripe with two children and a wife?

Not that most Tory women would tell you that on the record. But then Tory women do not tend to go on the record about such things.

"There is no heartfelt wish

to have MPs who reflect the country as a whole. That would mean talking about gay MPs or black MPs. Instead they are still talking about women. There are quite well-behaved," says Mary Ann Stephenson, of the Fawcett Society.

But, after the meetings, it all spills out. "They just say they've been trying for the past 28 years and they keep going to training courses and having their hair done and buying the right suits and they still don't get selected."

The whole subject of women MPs makes Edwina Currie laugh. "People do say it is the women who hold other women back with the Tories, but I think the whole party is stuck in a 1960s' time warp.

"There is no heartfelt wish

forives should see this as an opportunity to change forever the view that they see women only as wives, grannies or nannies.

William Hague could make a wholesale change in the thinking," she says. Now, women are selected only in extreme circumstances. "When there is sleaze or scandal, they turn to a woman," she says, pointing out that Jacqui Lait replaced Piers Merchant.

A study by the Tory think-tank, the Bow Group, has found that barely 3 per cent of party members are women aged under 45.

Fiona Buxton, deputy chairman of the Bow Group, says the average age of members is 67. Bea Campbell, the author of *Iron Ladies*, calls it a "generational catastrophe".

Linda McDougall, author of *Westminster Women* and wife of the Labour MP Austin Mitchell, says that the Conser-

atives should see this as an opportunity to change forever the view that they see women only as wives, grannies or nannies.

William Hague could make a wholesale change in the thinking," she says. Now, women are selected only in extreme circumstances. "When there is sleaze or scandal, they turn to a woman," she says, pointing out that Jacqui Lait replaced Piers Merchant.

The leadership wants to fudge this, however. Mr Hague has proposed that 25 per cent of the candidates interviewed in the first round of Westminster selections should be women. The party rejected that but it could change.

The Tory MP Julie Kirkbride is young and thrusting and believes that women should make up half of every shortlist. Others, like the former

There is not a party in Eu-

rope with a significant number of women in its parliament that has not used quotas. But even the word is enough to make many Tories see red.

"Every woman in Parliament should be able to look every man in the eye and say that she got them the same way that he did," says the leading Tory MP Ann Widdecombe.

The leadership wants to fudge this, however. Mr Hague has proposed that 25 per cent of the candidates interviewed in the first round of Westminster selections should be women. The party rejected that but it could change.

Miss Widdecombe does not believe they will. She says her heart used to sink when she saw a mostly female selection panel, but those days are gone. "We must not go down the route of positive discrimination. I'm not very impressed with most of 'Blair's Babes'. They get their pages out before they even

begin to speak. Not all of them, but many of those who come in because of discrimination are very substandard."

This dislike of the Babes seems to cross most divides. Bea Campbell says the Tories should see this as a great opportunity now that Labour has failed on women.

"The Baroness Jays of this world hate what they call Sev- enites feminism - simple things like equal pay - and the coterie around Blair are deeply misogynist. They are short-haired, stiff, young centurions who feel very safe in an environment where they don't have to carry the burden of women and what matters to them."

Over to you, Mr Hague.

Leading Article, Review, page 3

## 'Men never said to your face they didn't want you'

BY LOUISE JURY



THE DOUBTS were rarely raised in public. It was only afterwards that they tricked back to the prospective Tory woman candidate, one recalled yesterday.

"Nothing was ever specifically stated," Tessa Keswick said. "It's not easy to identify where the hostility comes in. You used to hear more afterwards about the opinions they never actually said - that they didn't want a woman."

Mrs Keswick, now director of the Centre for Policy Studies, a centre-right policy think-tank, first tried to get elected in 1987 and was eventually allowed to fight a completely unwinnable seat. In 1992 she tried again but was not even selected. After that she gave up.

She remembers aggressive questioning in interviews, although she concedes that men probably endured equally aggressive grillings - though possibly on different subjects.

"Why aren't you wearing a wedding ring?" they asked me once. I was married, but just didn't have the ring on."

There was no doubt men had the upper hand. "If they had to

choose, they would rather have a man. They'd appoint a male chairman in a ward because he was a banker without even knowing him. I guess it was rather the same [with MPs]. If the CV is good enough, and the smile, they like the man. But it was not stated."

With a background in advertising and business, a smattering of journalism and service as a local councillor, Tessa Keswick had a reasonable CV of her own. "But I think you had to be extremely good, you just had to be that much better to be selected. Judith Chaplin - who was a trained economist - was, but she had about eight cabinet ministers ringing up for her."

Mrs Keswick said she had received no help at all from Tory

Central Office, although she had the impression that that position had since improved. "It was men who were the pets, who were pushed by the [constituency] chairman."

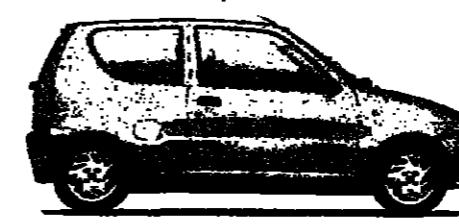
Female solidarity was largely non-existent out there in the Tory shires and boroughs. "The women were deeply suspicious of other women. They love the young men."

Mrs Keswick said there was no point in appointing women who were not up to the job, and she feared that many potentially good candidates currently saw standing for the Conservatives as a bad career move.

But it was vital for the future of the Conservative Party that the party understood the difference that more women would make. "Without them, the Conservative Party is going to shrivel."

The positions she met have convinced Mrs Keswick that words are not enough. "I think it will take 30 years to get more women at this rate," she said. "Women MPs are just so important. They have got to feel that, instead of looking at them with pursed lips as if they had sucked on a lemon."

## SEICENTO. BE SMALL AGAIN.



6% FINANCE AND FREE INSURANCE FOR A YEAR.

## Marrieds becoming minority

BY CLARE GARNER

MARRIED PEOPLE will be in the minority for the first time in recorded memory if current trends continue over the next 10 years, government experts predicted yesterday.

The percentage of married adults is expected to fall to 46 per cent by 2011 and still further to 45 per cent, by 2021, according to the Government Actuary Department. At present, married people make up 55 per cent of the population in England and Wales.

Couples who co-habit are likely almost to double in num-

ber - from 1.56 million in 1996 to about 3 million in 2021. But despite the dramatic rise, there will still be fewer people living as couples - married or unmarried - in the first quarter of the 21st century.

The Government's figures are based on the assumption that trends such as the fall in the marital rate for under-30-year-olds, the rise in the proportion of single (never married) people who co-habit, and the small increase in the di-

vorce rate, will continue at the same rate.

The proportion of men who have never married is expected to rise from 32 per cent in 1996 to 41 per cent in 2021. For women, the figure is expected to rise from 24 per cent to 33 per cent over the same period.

Divorce is likely to fall among younger age groups, but rise among the over-45s. The overall number of divorces among adults will rise from 8.55 per cent of all adults in 1996 to 11 per cent in 2021. Projected improvements in mortality mean the proportion of people who are widowed is to fall. It is expected that the number of widowed females over 65 will drop from 49 per cent in 1996 to 35 per cent in 2021.

teach that marriage is the best way to cement a relationship and bring up children."

Divorce is likely to fall among younger age groups, but rise among the over-45s. The overall number of divorces among adults will rise from 8.55 per cent of all adults in 1996 to 11 per cent in 2021. Projected improvements in mortality mean the proportion of people who are widowed is to fall. It is expected that the number of widowed females over 65 will drop from 49 per cent in 1996 to 35 per cent in 2021.

DRIVEN BY PASSION FIAT

SEICENTO RANGE STARTS FROM £4,690 ON THE ROAD FOR THE SEICENTO 5 1.0i, INCLUDING £170 FOR DELIVERY TO DEALER PLATES AND 12 MONTHS ROAD FUND LICENCE. 0% APR AVAILABLE WITH DEPOSIT OF £1,390.00 (10%) FOLLOWED BY 12 MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF £210.00. TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE £6,582.11. MODELS SHOWN SEICENTO SPORTING AT £7,520.25 ON THE ROAD. PRICES CORRECT FROM 1st OF PRINTING 21/1/99. FINANCE OFFER ENDS 21/2/99. FREE INSURANCE IS AVAILABLE TO PRIVATE CUSTOMERS AGED 17 TO 75 ONLY SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS. CREDIT AVAILABLE TO ANYONE AGED 18 OR OVER SUBJECT TO STATUS. THESE OFFERS CANNOT BE USED IN CONJUNCTION WITH ANY OTHER OFFER. A GUARANTEE AND/OR INDEMNITY MAY BE REQUIRED. WRITTEN QUOTATIONS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST FROM RAT AUTO FINANCIAL SERVICES LIMITED, PO BOX 17005, EDINBURGH EH12 5YW. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT US ON 0800 717 000 OR [www.fiat.co.uk](http://www.fiat.co.uk)

Health crisis: Staff speak of demoralisingly poor pay as one of Britain's top doctors resigns over bed shortages

## Dobson backs a new deal for nurses

FRANK DOBSON placed his weight behind nurses' claims for higher pay yesterday as he condemned as "an international disgrace" the recruitment of foreign nurses from abroad to shore up the ailing National Health Service.

The Secretary of State for Health said he wanted to see better pay, more flexible shifts, family-friendly employment policies and a new pay structure to make nursing a more attractive career and help to end the practice of hospitals recruiting overseas.

With the nurses' pay review body due to report later this month, he said he hoped its recommendations would be "sufficiently high" to attract and retain nurses. He also said he hoped the pay award would not be staged, as it was last year.

His remarks came as nurses from the Philippines tried on their NHS uniforms after being flown in for jobs they said paid three times better than at home. Meanwhile, hospitals in Portsmouth appealed to patients' relatives to help out because of staff shortages.

The British Association for Accident and Emergency Medicine said yesterday that the drive to cut waiting lists was diverting resources from emergency care and had led to the shortage of beds. It is demanding a meeting with Mr Dobson.

Dr Roger Evans, president

of the association and a consultant in Cardiff, said the situation was worst this winter because of the emphasis on treating patients for routine surgery. "That means there isn't room for emergencies. We have patients on trolleys in the department for six, eight, or ten hours at a time so it looks as if we are not performing when it is just because we can't move the patients on to a bed."

Yesterday, the pressures that threatened to overwhelm the

NHS earlier in the week appeared to be easing. The health department said 23 intensive-care units had beds available, and doctors predicted the flu outbreak could have peaked and be on the way down in the northern and central regions.

Mr Dobson said that some overstretched hospitals were facing "real problems" in dealing with staff shortages and high demand for beds. He did not criticise managers for seeking staff abroad but said: "It is an international disgrace... [developed countries] talk about how much medical aid and assistance they are giving to the Third World and all over the developing world we are taking nurses and doctors away from them."

Speaking on BBC Radio he said the blame for nursing shortages lay with the Tories. "At the beginning of this decade there were about 15,000 nurses going into training each year. The previous government reduced it to 11,000. It takes

three years to train a nurse so the reduced number coming out of nurse training now is a product of the reduction they deliberately made at that time."

There are more than 8,000 vacancies for nursing staff in the NHS and 15,500 nurses are in training - the highest figure for six years according to Labour.

The Tory health spokeswoman, Ann Widdecombe, hit back at Mr Dobson's allegations that the Conservatives were to blame for the nursing crisis.

"Labour are fiddling the facts to wriggle out of their NHS crisis... They refuse to admit that their obsession with the waiting list figures and distorting clinical priorities has been the real cause of patients waiting for hours on trolleys in hospital corridors, and the spectacle of refrigerated lorries being used as temporary mortuaries," she said.

"They actually cut back our planned increase in trainee nurses for 1997-98 by 3 per cent, from 14 per cent to 11 per cent."

## 'You don't get respect or money'

BY CATHY COMERFORD

GRADUATING NURSES expressed their hopes and fears for the future yesterday, with most of them disappointed at prospects for their profession.

Some had taken time out from their careers to requalify or take advance qualifications; they spoke at a ceremony at Homerton College, Cambridge.

Katie Chapman, 25, an auxiliary nurse at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, was receiving her higher-education diploma.

The qualification will raise her status to staff nurse and her pay from £7,500 to £12,800. "I am pessimistic for the future. At the moment it's very disheartening. You are working your hardest but not getting any respect or money. There is the bed crisis but if a bed is empty they say put someone in it, but there are not the people to care for them. It's dangerous."

Phil McMenemy, 35, a former engineer who came into nursing three-and-a-half years ago and who is now a psychiatric charge nurse in an adolescent unit at St Albans, said: "I think nursing is becoming more professional... But... we use bank and agency nurses because we can't fill the posts when they become vacant. This isn't good enough."

Gaye Jenkins, 45, had been in nursing for many years and works with cancer patients at the West Suffolk Hospital in Bury St Edmunds. She had taken a diploma in palliative care. She said: "The number of nurses coming from school has dropped drastically. They can go into other jobs such as computing which will pay them far more."

Mary Ferguson, 42, works at the Rosie Maternity Hospital in Cambridge as a midwife and took a diploma in midwifery, although she already had years of experience.

"You have the young ones coming up and you have to keep

up. We are terribly short staffed... but I love the job," she said.

Helena Ellerton, 46, has been in nursing for 25 years and works at Stoke Mandeville Hospital. She progressed from enrolled to state registered nurse and took time out to take the three-year diploma. "It's just for professional satisfaction... I wish they would recognise nurses a little bit more," she said.

Nicola Hewer, 26, is a qualified registered general nurse and requalified to specialise in children's nursing. She works in the accident and emergency department at Addenbrooke's. "It's very stressful A&E because we don't have any beds. I don't think the situation is going to improve because young people are going to go to University and will want to make shedloads of money at the end of it. There's a terrible lack of children's nurses in A&E."

Rachel Baker, 26, works on a children's ward at Peterborough District Hospital. She said: "We work so hard. I became ill because I was so tired. The more nurses that get qualified, the easier it will get if the pay was enough more people would come into it."

Carole Crowsen, 49, has been a state registered nurse since 1971. She manages an endoscopy unit at Peterborough District Hospital.

She said: "A lot of my age group are retiring and that has caused the problem but within the next three to four years, with Project 2000 [a graduate training scheme for nurses], the situation will improve."

Jo Simpson, 50, had taken a diploma in palliative care over three years as a modular course. She has been nursing for 28 years. "We have had lots of changes. I expect there will be some more. I certainly hope so."



Some of the 140 nurses who received higher-education diplomas at a graduation ceremony yesterday at Homerton College, Cambridge

Brian Harris

## Head of casualty unit quits in protest

ONE OF Britain's most respected hospital doctors has resigned as the head of Scotland's busiest accident and emergency department because the shortage of beds has made his job impossible.

The resignation of Keith Little, a blunt Yorkshireman, as clinical director of the unit at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary has shaken the complacency in Scotland that although NHS hospitals are under pressure, the problems are not nearly as bad as in England.

Dr Little said he accepted there was no "bottomless pit" of money available but maintained that the needs of patients were not being met by resources. He cited examples of patients waiting on trolleys for up to 10 hours. "It is no use struggling to find a bed two hours after a patient arrives. Empty beds must be available when they are needed," he said yesterday.

Dr Little tendered his resignation early in December before the winter crisis. He will continue to work as a consultant in the hospital's A&E department.

A past president of the British Association for Accident and Emergency Medicine, he pioneered fast-response teams to treat disaster and crash victims on the spot.

Dr Little has been forthright in warning Tory and Labour ministers about mounting pressure on health ser-

vices in Scotland. "Staff [at the ERI] are working extremely hard, but they have to have their problems recognised and not denied by anyone," he said in a rebuke to Mr Galbraith.

"The people in power have to recognise there is a problem, a difficulty, which is not an exaggeration or make-believe, otherwise staff will become worn down and disillusioned."

He spoke of the "frustration" of having patients waiting on trolleys for "four, six or eight hours" or even "in extreme cases" up to 10 hours, before being found a bed. Tracing the problems back to May last year, he said the underlying cause was a more elderly population combined with bed closures.

"Somehow those in charge have to identify a structure and a strategy which enable acute hospitals like this to have empty beds available to deal with emergency patients on a daily basis."

Mr Galbraith's trenchant denial of any crisis followed a claim by Dr Brian Potter, Scottish secretary of the British Medical Association, that the NHS was in "an unbelievably awful state". Admissions at the ERI's accident and emergency

unit were up 10 per cent and waiting for it to take effect.

Dr Little said he was not aware that the position was as serious elsewhere in Scotland. "Certainly my colleagues down south, at a meeting I was at in London [on Thursday]... everyone has major difficulties in processing patients through the emergency services."

Dr Potter said he was not surprised by Dr Little's reasons for resigning. "It is a natural consequence if you keep putting people in a position where they have to cope with intolerable odds." He blamed the private finance initiative, adopted by Labour from Conservatives, for "ripping the heart out of the NHS".

Joe Owens, chief executive of the hospital, claimed measures had been put in place to tackle acute bed availability but these would "take time".

Tom Waterson, Unison representative at the hospital, said Mr Galbraith should change his policies or go. "There is massive pressure and massive frustration because there is just too much work and not enough staff - we are burning from crisis to crisis." Alex Salmond, leader of the SNP, said the minister's position was untenable.

### TSB Savings Interest Rates for Personal Customers

From start of business on 9 January 1999 the following rates of interest are applicable to the accounts set out below.

	Annual		Monthly					
	Previous	New	Previous	New				
90 Day Notice Account*	AER/Gross %	AER/Gross %	Net %	AER %	Gross %	AER %	Gross %	Net %
£100,000+	5.80	5.55	4.44	5.55	5.41	5.30	5.18	4.14
£ 50,000+	5.45	5.15	4.12	5.20	5.08	4.90	4.79	3.83
£ 25,000+	5.20	4.80	3.84	4.95	4.84	4.55	4.46	3.57
£ 10,000+	4.90	4.40	3.52	4.65	4.55	4.15	4.07	3.26

	Annual		Monthly					
	Previous	New	Previous	New				
60 Day Notice Account*	AER/Gross %	AER/Gross %	Net %	AER %	Gross %	AER %	Gross %	Net %
£ 50,000+	5.00	4.75	3.80	4.00	3.93	3.75	3.69	2.95
£ 25,000+	4.70	4.45	3.56	3.70	3.64	3.45	3.40	2.72
£ 10,000+	4.40	4.15	3.32	3.40	3.35	3.15	3.11	2.48
£ 5,000+	3.35	3.10	2.48	2.35	2.33	2.10	2.08	1.66
£ 500+	3.10	2.85	2.28	2.10	2.08	1.85	1.83	1.47

	Annual		Monthly					
	Previous	New	Previous	New				
Flexible Savings Account	AER/Gross %	AER/Gross %	Net %	AER %	Gross %	AER %	Gross %	Net %
£ 10,000+	3.05	2.70	2.16	2.80	2.75	2.45	2.42	1.94
£ 5,000+	2.55	2.20	1.76	2.30	2.28	1.95	1.93	1.55
£ 500+	2.30	2.00	1.60	2.05	2.03	1.75	1.74	1.39
Below £500	0.20	0.20	0.16	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.16

	Annual		Quarterly					
	Previous	New	Previous	New				
Instant Gold Savings Account*	AER/Gross %	AER/Gross %	Net %	AER %	Gross %	AER %	Gross %	Net %
£50,000+	5.25	5.00	4.00	4.75	4.67	4.75	4.67	3.73
£25,000+	4.70	4.45	3.56	4.45	4.38	4.20	4.14	3.31
£10,000+	4.40	4.15	3.32	4.15	4.09	3.90	3.84	3.08
£ 2,500+	4.05	3.08	3.04	3.80	3.75	3.55	3.50	2.80

	Previous		New	
AER/Tax Free %	AER/Tax Free %	AER/Tax Free %	AER/Tax Free %	




</tbl



Gliders over the bridge during the D-Day invasion

## Pegasus bridge to be rebuilt as D-Day memorial

WORK WILL begin in the next few weeks on a new memorial at Pegasus Bridge - the site of the first Allied action of D-Day and one of the most celebrated British actions of the Second World War.

The original bridge, uprooted in 1993 and lying derelict ever since, is to be reconstructed as the piece de résistance of a £650,000 memorial and museum. The roof will be shaped to look like one of the three British gliders that skidded to a halt nearby, carrying the first Allied soldiers to land on French soil.

The project extends - but is unlikely to end - a tangled saga of local rivalries and misunderstandings, accusations and counter-accusations, which led to the repossession and closure of a smaller museum near the new, replica bridge 14 months ago. It will also fulfil a promise made to British airborne veterans that the original Pegasus Bridge, dumped when the canal was widened six years ago, would be given an honourable and fitting new home.

For the past year a number of groups - local councils in Normandy, British airborne veterans, the British embassy in Paris and a committee of Norman officials and dignitaries, dedicated to honouring the memory of D-Day - have been working quietly to create a new museum, with the old bridge rebuilt in its grounds.

Although no formal announcement has been made, all administrative and most fund-

By JOHN LICHFIELD  
in Ranville, Normandy

ing problems have now been overcome. Work on the museum - a few yards from the eastern end of the original site of the bridge, in the commune of Ranville, the first French village to be liberated - is expected to start as soon as planning formalities are completed next month.

Lieutenant-Colonel Neville Jackson, of Airborne Assault Normandy, the airborne veterans' trust that has been pushing the project, said: "It has been a long haul and we didn't want to say much until we knew that we were more or less sure of succeeding. Now it's 99 per cent sure."

The old bridge lies rusting and weed-infested at the end of a lorry park, 300 hundred yards from its original location, on the Caen canal, a few miles inland from the "Sword" invasion beach. Bullet and cannon-shell scars still mark the battleship-grey girders, beneath which Lieutenant Danny Brothridge of the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry, became the first Allied casualty of the invasion at 20 minutes past midnight on 6 June, 1944.

The capture of the bridge, and another span a half mile away, across the River Orne, was the first act in a two-month struggle by British and Canadian forces in the 6th Airborne Division to protect the critical eastern flank of the D-Day beaches from German counter-

attack. Failure could have led to the entire invasion being thrown back into the sea.

Recently, the bridge has become the object of a second, less fateful, but widely publicised battle. Arlette Gondrée-Pritchett, 57, proprietor of a celebrated cafe beside the bridge site, and part of the first family in France to be liberated, owned the land on which the original museum was built. She took eviction action, which closed the museum, in October 1997 after a series of ill-tempered squabbles, including one shoving match in which she was pushed over a fence by the curator.

Mrs Gondrée-Pritchett then announced plans to expand a private museum in her own castle and virulently opposed the idea of a new memorial, on the other side of the canal, claiming it would turn the area into a "theme park". She was supported by some British veterans of Normandy, including the former prime minister Sir Edward Heath.

She was, however, equally virulently opposed by other airborne veterans, including Major John Howard, 84, the man who led the attack on Pegasus Bridge.

Patient diplomacy by British government officials and the airborne veterans' leaders in recent months has attempted to persuade Mrs Gondrée-Pritchett to adopt a more neutral attitude to the new museum.

British officials believe that the new visitors attracted by the

memorial will help, rather than hinder, Mrs Gondrée-Pritchett's plans to expand the family museum at her cafe.

Mrs Gondrée-Pritchett remains deeply suspicious of the new project, although she has no plans to take formal moves to oppose it. In England, where she lives in winter, she said: "I still have grave doubts about this idea. I fear that this is going to develop into a kind of Disneyland of D-Day. The old bridge is now just a corpse. Restoring it on a new site has no significance whatsoever. The only truly historic, unchanged site left is my cafe."

Many British veterans - they

claim to be the majority of survivors of the battles on the eastern flank of D-Day - share Mrs Gondrée-Pritchett's concerns. Peter Parnwell, 73, who fought with the Highland Division and crossed the bridge "30 or so times in 1944" supports a rival plan to bring the old bridge to a D-Day memorial site in Britain. "On the surface, it sounds as if this project has got further than we believed it would," he said. "But we've heard it all before. I'm still very concerned that the old bridge would not be properly displayed or maintained on this site."

The British embassy in Paris has no such concerns. Brigadier Andrew Gadsby, the military attaché, has been heavily involved, with the Ambassador, Sir Michael Jay, in smoothing the path for the new museum. He said: "The ambassador believes that this project will provide a fitting memorial for those who sacrificed their lives in perhaps the most crucial battle in the whole Normandy campaign. It is no exaggeration to say that, if the eastern flank had given way, the Germans could have rolled up the entire invasion, extending the war for another two to three years, even, conceivably changing its outcome."

"At the same time, we believe

that help to equip the museum. There is now little doubt that the museum will happen, even without British money," said Lt-Col Jackson, a retired territorial airborne officer living in Normandy, who has been the trust's main ambassador and negotiator in France.

Local government funding of around £400,000 for the museum is expected to be announced soon by the Calvados and Basse-Normandie councils. A contribution of £250,000 will be made by the locally run Comité du Débarquement, which operated the original museum on the site. The Comité will run the new, glider-shaped memorial, with help from the airborne veterans' trust.

A British company has offered to level the site free. Royal Engineers are expected to undertake most of the work of restoring Pegasus Bridge and moving it a couple of hundred yards to its permanent resting place. Airborne Assault Normandy, which is dedicated to preserving the memory of the eastern flank campaign, hopes to raise up to another £400,000 from British sources,

to help to equip the museum.

"There is now little doubt that the museum will happen, even without British money," said Lt-Col Jackson, a retired territorial airborne officer living in Normandy, who has been the trust's main ambassador and negotiator in France.

"But it is important, psychologically and morally, that it should be seen to be supported by British as well as French cash. And the more money we have, the better equipped and the more advanced the museum will be."

Pegasus Bridge, some 40 metres long, will be re-erected in its entirety in front of the picture windows of the main museum hall, which will house 8,000 artefacts and mementoes from June 1944. The exhibits and videos will tell the story of

the capture of the bridge but also the less well-known saga of the two-month battle by the 6th Airborne Division to seize and defend the ridge to the east and defend the D-Day landings from vigorous German counter-attacks. More than 1,000 men of the 6th Airborne - whose average age was 20 - died in these battles.

The hope is to open the museum with a drop by British paratroopers, and maybe a royal visit, or just before 6 June next year. Anyone wishing to contribute to the project should send inquiries or any donations to: The Pegasus Memorial c/o Airborne Assault Normandy Trust, Parachute Regiment Headquarters, Browning Barracks, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2BU.

The Pegasus bridge, which was uprooted six years ago and lies rusting in a lorry park 300 yards from its original location, is to be given a new home Brian Harris

The Pegasus bridge, which was uprooted six years ago and lies rusting in a lorry park 300 yards from its original location, is to be given a new home Brian Harris

The Pegasus bridge, which was uprooted six years ago and lies rusting in a lorry park 300 yards from its original location, is to be given a new home Brian Harris

The Pegasus bridge, which was uprooted six years ago and lies rusting in a lorry park 300 yards from its original location, is to be given a new home Brian Harris

The Pegasus bridge, which was uprooted six years ago and lies rusting in a lorry park 300 yards from its original location, is to be given a new home Brian Harris

The Pegasus bridge, which was uprooted six years ago and lies rusting in a lorry park 300 yards from its original location, is to be given a new home Brian Harris

The Pegasus bridge, which was uprooted six years ago and lies rusting in a lorry park 300 yards from its original location, is to be given a new home Brian Harris

The Pegasus bridge, which was uprooted six years ago and lies rusting in a lorry park 300 yards from its original location, is to be given a new home Brian Harris

The Pegasus bridge, which was uprooted six years ago and lies rusting in a lorry park 300 yards from its original location, is to be given a new home Brian Harris

The Pegasus bridge, which was uprooted six years ago and lies rusting in a lorry park 300 yards from its original location, is to be given a new home Brian Harris

The Pegasus bridge, which was uprooted six years ago and lies rusting in a lorry park 300 yards from its original location, is to be given a new home Brian Harris

The Pegasus bridge, which was uprooted six years ago and lies rusting in a lorry park 300 yards from its original location, is to be given a new home Brian Harris

The Pegasus bridge, which was uprooted six years ago and lies rusting in a lorry park 300 yards from its original location, is to be given a new home Brian Harris

The Pegasus bridge, which was uprooted six years ago and lies rusting in a lorry park 300 yards from its original location, is to be given a new home Brian Harris

The Pegasus bridge, which was uprooted six years ago and lies rusting in a lorry park 300 yards from its original location, is to be given a new home Brian Harris

The Pegasus bridge, which was uprooted six years ago and lies rusting in a lorry park 300 yards from its original location, is to be given a new home Brian Harris

The Pegasus bridge, which was uprooted six years ago and lies rusting in a lorry park 300 yards from its original location, is to be given a new home Brian Harris

The Pegasus bridge, which was uprooted six years ago and lies rusting in a lorry park 300 yards from its original location, is to be given a new home Brian Harris

The Pegasus bridge, which was uprooted six years ago and lies rusting in a lorry park 300 yards from its original location, is to be given a new home Brian Harris

The Pegasus bridge, which was uprooted six years ago and lies rusting in a lorry park 300 yards from its original location, is to be given a new home Brian Harris

The Pegasus bridge, which was uprooted six years ago and lies rusting in a lorry park 300 yards from its original location, is to be given a new home Brian Harris

The Pegasus bridge, which was uprooted six years ago and lies rusting in a lorry park 300 yards from its original location, is to be given a new home Brian Harris

The Pegasus bridge, which was uprooted six years ago and lies rusting in a lorry park 300 yards from its original location, is to be given a new home Brian Harris

The Pegasus bridge, which was uprooted six years ago and lies rusting in a lorry park 300 yards from its original location, is to be given a new home Brian Harris

The Pegasus bridge, which was uprooted six years ago and lies rusting in a lorry park 300 yards from its original location, is to be given a new home Brian Harris

The Pegasus bridge, which was uprooted six years ago and lies rusting in a lorry park 300 yards from its original location, is to be given a new home Brian Harris

The Pegasus bridge, which was uprooted six years ago and lies rusting in a lorry park 300 yards from its original location, is to be given a new home Brian Harris

The Pegasus bridge, which was uprooted six years ago and lies rusting in a lorry park 300 yards from its original location, is to be given a new home Brian Harris

The Pegasus bridge, which was uprooted six years ago and lies rusting in a lorry park 300 yards from its original location, is to be given a new home Brian Harris

The Pegasus bridge, which was uprooted six years ago and lies rusting in a lorry park 300 yards from its original location, is to be given a new home Brian Harris

The Pegasus bridge, which was uprooted six years ago and lies rusting in a lorry park 300 yards from its original location, is to be given a new home Brian Harris

The Pegasus bridge, which was uprooted six years ago and lies rusting in a lorry park 300 yards from its original location, is to be given a new home Brian Harris

The Pegasus bridge, which was uprooted six years ago and lies rusting in a lorry park 300 yards from its original location, is to be given a new home Brian Harris

The Pegasus bridge, which was uprooted six years ago and lies rusting in a lorry park 300 yards from its original location, is to be given a new home Brian Harris

The Pegasus bridge, which was uprooted six years ago and lies rusting in a lorry park 300 yards from its original location, is to be given a new home Brian Harris

The Pegasus bridge, which was uprooted six years ago and lies rusting in a lorry park 300 yards from its original location, is to be given a new home Brian Harris

The Pegasus bridge, which was uprooted six years ago and lies rusting in a lorry park 300 yards from its original location, is to be given a new home Brian Harris

The Pegasus bridge, which was uprooted six years ago and lies rusting in a lorry park 300 yards from its original location, is to be given a new home Brian Harris

The Pegasus bridge, which was uprooted six years ago and lies rusting in a lorry park 300 yards from its original location, is to be given a new home Brian Harris

The Pegasus bridge, which was uprooted six years ago and lies rusting in a lorry park 300 yards from its original location, is to be given a new home Brian Harris

The Pegasus bridge, which was uprooted six years ago and lies rusting in a lorry park 300 yards from its original location, is to be given a new home Brian Harris

The Pegasus bridge, which was uprooted six years ago and lies rusting in a lorry park 300 yards from its original location, is to be given a new home Brian Harris

The Pegasus bridge, which was uprooted six years ago and lies rusting in a lorry park 300 yards from its original location, is to be given a new home Brian Harris

The Pegasus bridge, which was uprooted six years ago and lies rusting in a lorry park 300 yards from its original location, is to be given a new home Brian Harris

The Pegasus bridge, which was uprooted six years ago and lies rusting in a lorry park 300 yards from its original location, is to be given a new home Brian Harris

The Pegasus bridge, which was uprooted six years ago and lies rusting in a lorry park 300 yards from its original location, is to be given a new home Brian Harris

The Pegasus bridge, which was uprooted six years ago and lies rusting in a lorry park 300 yards from its original location, is to be given a new home Brian Harris

The Pegasus bridge, which was uprooted six years ago and lies rusting in a lorry park 300 yards from its original location, is to be given a new home Brian Harris

The Pegasus bridge, which was uprooted six years ago and lies rusting in a lorry park 300 yards from its original location, is to be given a new home Brian Harris

The Pegasus bridge, which was uprooted six years ago and lies rusting in a lorry park 300 yards from its original location, is to be given a new home Brian Harris

The Pegasus bridge, which was uprooted six years ago and lies rusting in a lorry park 300 yards from its original location, is to be given a new home Brian Harris

The Pegasus bridge, which was uprooted six years ago and lies rusting in a lorry park 300 yards from its original location, is to be given a new home Brian Harris

The Pegasus bridge, which was uprooted six years ago and lies rusting in a lorry park 300 yards from its original location, is to be given a new home Brian Harris

The Pegasus bridge, which was uprooted six years ago and lies rusting in a lorry park 300 yards from its original location, is to be given a new home Brian Harris

The Pegasus bridge, which was uprooted six years ago and lies rusting in a lorry park 300 yards from its original location, is to be given a new home Brian Harris

The Pegasus bridge, which was uprooted six years ago and lies rusting in a lorry park 300 yards from its original location, is to be given a new home Brian Harris

The Pegasus bridge, which was uprooted six years ago and lies rusting in a lorry park 300 yards from its original location, is to be given a new home Brian Harris

The Pegasus bridge, which was uprooted six years ago and lies rusting in a lorry park 300 yards from its original location, is to be given a new home Brian Harris

The Pegasus bridge, which was uprooted six years ago and lies rusting in a lorry park 300 yards from its original location, is to be given a new home Brian Harris

The Pegasus bridge, which was uprooted six years ago and lies rusting in a lorry park 300 yards from its original location, is to be given a new home Brian Harris

The Pegasus bridge, which was uprooted six years ago and lies rusting in a lorry park 300 yards from its original location, is to be given a new home Brian Harris

The Pegasus bridge, which was uprooted six years ago and lies rusting in a lorry park 300 yards from its original location, is to be given a new home Brian Harris

The Pegasus bridge, which was uprooted six years ago and lies rusting in a lorry park 300 yards from its original location, is to be given a new home Brian Harris

BRITAIN'S BIGGEST TV AND VIDEO STORES

# Currys

S  
A  
L  
E



TVs **SAVE** UP TO £250

**JVC**

- 29" Dolby Pro-Logic TV with Surround Sound
- 68cm Visible Screen Size.
- Fastext for easy access to Teletext.
- Twin SCART sockets.
- Model C32WV02TN. Was £599.99. 9 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION\*

**SAVE** £50 **SALE PRICE** £549.99

WIDESCREEN TVs

**SAVE** UP TO £200



**SAVE** UP TO £70

**Panasonic**

- 21" TV/Video Package
- 21" Fastext TV with Remote Control
- 51cm visible screen size.
- PLUS
- Long Play Video with VideoPlus and PDC.
- Model 21S37/230. Total Separate Selling Price £409.99. 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION\*

**SAVE** £70 **PACKAGE PRICE** £339

**HITACHI**  
32" Widescreen TV with Dolby Pro-Logic Surround Sound

76cm Visible Screen Size.

Model C32WV02TN. Was £1099. 12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION\*

**PANASONIC** 21" Widescreen TV with Dolby Pro-Logic Surround Sound

66cm Visible Screen Size.

Model TXW28R4D. Was £799.99. 12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION\*

**SONY** 25" TV/Video Package

25" NICAM Stereo TV with Fastext

66cm Visible Screen Size.

Model 25KS6730. Total Separate Selling Price £549.99. 9 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION\*

**TV FURNITURE** **HALF PRICE**

**STYLEHOUSE** TV/Video Stand

■ For TVs Up To 21" Screen

■ Black Ash Finish.

Model TVS 21LW. Was £19.99.

**STYLEHOUSE** TV/Video Stand

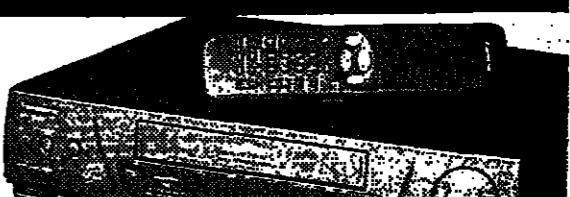
■ For TVs Up To 21" Screen

■ Light Wood Finish.

Model TVS 21LW. Was £39.99.

**SAVE** UP TO £200  
ON TELEVISIONS

**VIDEOS** **SAVE** UP TO £70



**Panasonic**

4-Head NICAM Stereo Video

■ VideoPlus and PDC. ■ Index search system.

Model VHD-630. Was £289.99. Was £179.99. 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION\*

**EXCLUSIVE**

**MATSUI** NICAM Stereo Video with VideoPlus and PDC

■ VideoPlus and PDC. ■ Index search system.

Model UP-820. Was £199.99. In-store £149.99.

**EXCLUSIVE**

**SANYO** NICAM Stereo Video with VideoPlus and PDC

■ VideoPlus and PDC. ■ Index search system.

Model UP-820. Was £199.99. 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION\*

**PANASONIC** 25" Dolby Pro-Logic

Surround Sound TV

66cm Visible Screen Size.

Model TX25LD40P. Was £399.99. Was £199.99. 12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION\*

**TOSHIBA** 33" Dolby Pro-Logic TV

Surround Sound TV

82cm Visible Screen Size.

Model 33P30. Was £199.99. Was £114.99. Price £119.99. 12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION\*

**JVC** 4-Head NICAM Stereo Video

■ Index search system.

Model HRU-655. Was £279.99. Was £179.99. 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION\*

**EXCLUSIVE**

**MATSUI** NICAM Stereo Video with VideoPlus and PDC

■ VideoPlus and PDC. ■ Index search system.

Model UP-820. Was £199.99. In-store £149.99.

**EXCLUSIVE**

**SANYO** NICAM Stereo Video with VideoPlus and PDC

■ VideoPlus and PDC. ■ Index search system.

Model UP-820. Was £199.99. In-store £149.99.

**HITACHI** NICAM Stereo Video with VideoPlus and PDC

■ VideoPlus and PDC. ■ Index search system.

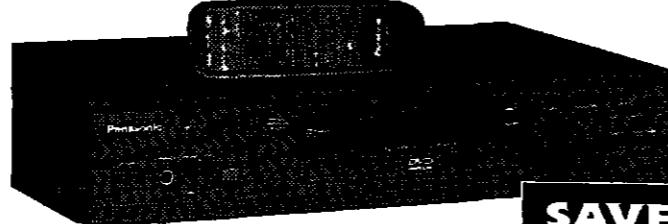
Model VTFX-770. Was £199.99. 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION\*

**SAVE** UP TO £100  
END OF LINE AND EX-DISPLAY  
TELEVISIONS AND VIDEOS

Ask in-store for details

**HURRY! LIMITED STOCKS**

## Panasonic TOSHIBA



**EXPERIENCE**

**DVD**  
VIDEO

**Panasonic**

DVD Video Disc Player

- Virtual Surround Sound.
- NTSC Playback.
- Multi-Function.

Model DVDA150EB. Was £449.99.

6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION\*

**SAVE** £50  
**SALE PRICE** £399.99



**SAVE** £50  
**PACKAGE PRICE** £1149

**Panasonic**

TV/DVD Package

28" Widescreen TV with Dolby Pro-Logic Surround Sound

66cm visible screen size.

■ PLUS

DVD Player

Model TXW28R4D/A150.

Total Separate Selling Price £1199.99.

12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION\*

■ PLUS

TV/DVD Package

28" Widescreen TV with Dolby Pro-Logic Surround Sound

66cm visible screen size.

■ PLUS

DVD Player

Model TXW28R4D/A150.

Total Separate Selling Price £1199.99.

12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION\*

■ PLUS

TV/DVD Package

28" Widescreen TV with Dolby Pro-Logic Surround Sound

66cm visible screen size.

■ PLUS

DVD Player

Model TXW28R4D/A150.

Total Separate Selling Price £1199.99.

12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION\*

■ PLUS

TV/DVD Package

28" Widescreen TV with Dolby Pro-Logic Surround Sound

66cm visible screen size.

■ PLUS

DVD Player

Model TXW28R4D/A150.

Total Separate Selling Price £1199.99.

12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION\*

■ PLUS

TV/DVD Package

28" Widescreen TV with Dolby Pro-Logic Surround Sound

66cm visible screen size.

■ PLUS

DVD Player

Model TXW28R4D/A150.

Total Separate Selling Price £1199.99.

12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION\*

■ PLUS

TV/DVD Package

28" Widescreen TV with Dolby Pro-Logic Surround Sound

66cm visible screen size.

■ PLUS

DVD Player

Model TXW28R4D/A150.

Total Separate Selling Price £1199.99.

12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION\*

■ PLUS

TV/DVD Package

28" Widescreen TV with Dolby Pro-Logic Surround Sound

66cm visible screen size.

■ PLUS

DVD Player

Model TXW28R4D/A150.

Total Separate Selling Price £1199.99.

12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION\*

■ PLUS

TV/DVD Package

28" Widescreen TV with Dolby Pro-Logic Surround Sound

66cm visible screen size.

■ PLUS

DVD Player

Model TXW28R4D/A150.

Total Separate Selling Price £1199.99.

12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION\*

■ PLUS

TV/DVD Package

28" Widescreen TV with Dolby Pro-Logic Surround Sound

66cm visible screen size.

■ PLUS

DVD Player

Model TXW28R4D/A150.

Total Separate Selling Price £1199.99.

12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION\*

# A twisted view of man and his place

WHICH IS the most provincial city in Britain? Or, to put it more precisely, the inhabitants of which city in Britain know least about any other city or place in Britain? My money would be on London. This is not a particularly new thought, but it came out for another spin on its bike on Wednesday when the front-page of *The Independent* advertised Deborah Orr's fine new column inside the paper - that day about Scottish land reform - with the words: Haway the lairds.

A puzzle. The piece was about Scotland. "Haway" is a Tyneside expression of encouragement, the traditional shout of football crowds to Newcastle United players ("Haway the lads, come on boys!"), and unknown north of the Tweed. Even as a piece of world-play immune from geography and dialect, it did not make much sense. Ms Orr's piece was an anti-laird cry from the opposite terraces ("Stick it to those feudal superiors, break their legs!").

At lunch that day, dipping bread into the olive oil, I was grumbling about this metropolitan solipsism - grumbling mildly, pedantically and I have no doubt irritably - to three colleagues from the Granta office (in London), when the subject changed to Peter Mandelson, as it often does, and how many houses you could buy in Mr Mandelson's Hartlepool constituency for the price of his own in Notting Hill. I wondered if we were all quite sure where Hartlepool was.

Nobody knew. "Up north" was the closest they could get. But west coast, east coast, somewhere in the middle? Nobody knew.

North or south of Newcastle, east or west of Manchester, north or south of York? Nobody knew.

Well, have a guess then. Only one taker for this: "I always imagined it was near Liverpool."

My colleagues are clever people, endowed with curiosity, educated at England's most ancient universities, and much more knowledgeable than I am about many things. The structuralism of Roland Barthes, the complete works of

## NOTEBOOK



IAN JACK

George Eliot, the American musical, the Russian novel - they could give me a hiding in any of these. But they were all raised south of the Wash. "The North" to them was a mist that fell over the country somewhere about Milton Keynes and receded only on the approach to Iceland.

The spatial relationship of Sheffield to Leeds, Inverness to Aberdeen, Newcastle to Middlesbrough, all were as mysterious to them as the source of the Nile would have been to a European explorer circa 1850.

Is there a reverse ignorance? I do not think so. If you grow up in the North, you learn about the South for all kinds of reasons. London is there, the newspapers and television come from there, it is the place between you and continental Europe. You need often to go to it or through it. You cannot escape it.

There are compensations, though, for coming from the mist, of which a well-founded smugness about southern provinciality is certainly one. Northern readers with southern partners, friends and colleagues may like to reaffirm their superiority with the help of a blank sketch of Britain. Ask them if they can take their pens and mark the location of Hartlepool, and also Barrow, Jarrow and Dundee.

I wish I could offer a prize for the closest results, a sort of spot-the-northern-ball competition. Instead, how about this. Name the authors of *The Man from the North, North and South, Northward Hoe, Our Friends in the North, All Points North*. The first reader's letter which does this successfully wins for its writer a second-class return to the Mandelson constituency and a



Hartlepool: 'When the subject changed to Mr Mandelson's constituency... "Up north" was the closest anyone could get' Ted Ditchburn

handshake with the Member himself, if you can find him there (Oh, all right, a bottle of Scotch).

THIS WEEK, more than 20 years after his death, Field Marshal Viscount Montgomery of Alamein was "revealed" as an imperialist and racist. In 1947, the field marshal made a two-month tour of Africa and then submitted his Grand Design for the continent in a secret report to the prime minister, Clement Attlee, which was embarrassing to the government even at the time

and has just been released by the Public Record Office under the 50-year-rule.

Montgomery wanted to perpetuate and strengthen white rule in Africa, to suppress communist-inspired independence movements, and to attract a new breed of energetic white settler to replace the indolent, over-servanted class who were already there.

The sentence in his report that has attracted most publicity runs: "There will be many people in the UK who will oppose such a plan on the grounds that the African will suffer; there is no reason

whatever why he should suffer; and in any case he is a complete savage and is quite incapable of developing the country himself."

According to some newspaper pieces, these thoughts have delivered a "body-blow" to Montgomery's public standing. Lord Chalfont, one of his biographers, thinks that his reputation has been "irredeemably damaged... I find it very disappointing and depressing".

This is surely wrong. Whatever his military skills, Montgomery was well known as an unpleasant man (as Lord Chalfont was born in 1887. For at least the first half of his life, the superiority of the white race was a given and, as an ideology, probably reached its peak during his adolescence. When Montgomery was 11, Rudyard Kipling was urged

the United States to "pick up the white man's burden, send forth the best ye breed".

Even 40 years later, the idea that non-white colonies could successfully fend for themselves was still relatively rare. In 1941, a celebrated English writer wrote of India that without British protection and administration it was "hardly even capable of feeding itself"; that it depended on a framework of British technical experts who "could not be replaced within five or ten years"; that its old British administrators needed to be retired in favour of younger and

more energetic men (but still Britons). If Britain pulled out, this writer wrote, the result for India would simply be re-colonisation by Germany, Russia or Japan and "a series of enormous famines which would kill millions of people within a few years".

The writer? George Orwell, in one of his most famous essays, "The Lion and the Unicorn". This is not to equate Orwell with Montgomery. Orwell believed that India should be offered independence, which it would wisely decline and opt instead for partnership in a new kind of equal empire.

Still, he did not get it right. India opted for full independence only six years later, and managed to run itself at least no less successfully than under British rule. And although he was correct about a future starvation - a great famine did come to Bengal two years late - the millions it killed died because of British rather than Japanese maladministration.

I HAVE a borrowed book at home that a friend bought recently from a second-hand shop. It contains magnificent photographic plates, which show the benign, progressive influence of Britain in every corner of the world.

Underneath a picture of some wigwams in Canada, the caption says: "Nothing but their [the natives'] inherent incapacity prevents their attaining complete equality with the white race. But the disability exists, and all that the most philanthropic can hope for the native races of America is their gentle diminution, followed by their peaceful extinction."

The book was published in 1895. Montgomery would have been eight. The true shock of the Montgomery disclosure is that it seems to have caused a shock at all. It betrays an alarming ahistorical notion of whom we have been and what many of our forefathers believed.

A JOKE just in by electronic mail from Delhi. Q: What do they call the Indian version of Viagra? A: The God of Small Things.

## 'One in six farms to go organic within decade'

ORGANIC FARMING is booming in Britain, with the acreage of land kept free of fertilisers and pesticides doubling in one year.

However, there is unlikely to be any decrease in the relatively high prices of organic foods for consumers - at least not for several years.

Dr Nic Lampkin, a leading British authority on organic farming, told a conference yesterday that one in six farms could be organic by 2010.

Conventional farming with chemicals was mired in recession while the Government had boosted the payment it gives farmers to convert to organic methods from £250 per hectare to £450. At the same time, there was such a strong demand for

BY NICHOLAS SCHOON

organic foods that supermarkets had to import the bulk of what they sold from abroad.

Dr Lampkin said many farmers feared that as organic produce moves into the mainstream, it would no longer fetch premium prices. However, he believed it would continue to be relatively expensive for several years due to strong growth in demand.

Dr Lampkin, of the University of Wales, Aberystwyth, said Britain, which has an estimated 1,500 organic farmers, had one of the fastest growth rates of organic farming in Europe. Currently, one per cent of the total farm acreage is organic but over the next decade this could rise to 15 per cent.

Sales of produce across the European Union were worth about £4bn a year; Dr Lampkin told the National Conference on Organic Food and Farming in Cirencester, Glos.

Dr Jules Pretty of the University of Essex said that chemical-free farming could feed the globe's entire population of 10 billion people in the next century. His research, covering 63 developing nations, had found there were already 2 million farmers who had used organic techniques to at least double their crop production.

Many of them had abandoned the use of chemical fertilisers and pesticides because

they could no longer afford them. Yet, from India to Brazil, they had still found ways of doubling or even trebling yields.

"We're no longer talking about techniques used experimentally," he said.

Dr Pretty, director of his university's Centre for Environment and Society, gave the example of the velvet bean, grown in maize fields in Honduras and Guatemala. The bean has raised maize yields from 800kg per hectare to two tonnes - approaching the yields obtained by intensive farming in Europe. The bean turns nitrogen in the air into nitrate fertiliser in the soil. Once fully grown, it is cut down and allowed to rot - making compost.

More than half of the Swedish

## Britain is e-mail capital of Europe

BY CLARE GARNER

population, nearly half of Finns and 46 per cent of Danes said they had used the Internet, compared with just under a third of the British population as a whole. In France and Belgium a quarter of the population had used the Net, and in Germany and Spain a fifth. The Italians came last, with only 19 per cent having used the world wide web.

For eight of the twelve countries surveyed, e-mailing was the most popular Net activity, beating banking, which itself is more popular than on-line shopping.

Leading article, Review page 3

More than half of the Swedish

### IN BRIEF

#### Meningitis alert for youth football

YOUNG FOOTBALLERS were warned yesterday not to share water bottles during games this weekend to cut the risk of spreading meningitis. Fear of the virus being spread by saliva in drinks bottles has prompted the GT Football League to issue the warning to its 450 teams in South Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire.

#### Paedophile jailed for 15 years

A PAEDOPHILE who charmed the parents of his victims into trusting him was jailed for 15 years yesterday at the Old Bailey for abusing 10 boys over 20 years. Air-traffic controller Anthony Bridger, 52, who surfed the Internet for pornography, was caught when Surrey Police raided his home and seized computer equipment and printouts.

#### Boys questioned on rape attempt

TWO BOYS aged 12 and another of 11 were questioned by police in connection with the alleged attempted rape of a girl aged six. The boys were arrested on Monday and released on police bail pending further inquiries. The alleged incident happened in south Reading, Berkshire.

#### Teacher's murder appeal granted

THE DEPUTY headmaster jailed for life for murdering his foster daughter is to be allowed to appeal against his conviction. Sian Jenkins, 40, was convicted last July of bludgeoning Billie-Jo Jenkins, 13, at the family home in Hastings. No date has been set for the appeal.

#### Heart monitors for BA planes

BRITISH AIRWAYS will become the first international airline to install heart monitors and cardiac resuscitation devices on all of its aircraft, it said yesterday. The airline plans to fit the first monitors on long-haul planes in April.

### FERGAL KEANE

It is in the nature of war to throw up impossible choices

IN THE WEEKEND REVIEW PAGE 3

Lunn Poly

## ALL-INCLUSIVE CARIBBEAN

FROM  
£689

PLUS  
FREE  
INSURANCE  
ON  
selected  
Beaches.  
holidays

MANY SHOPS OPEN SUNDAY

Lunn Poly

Offer applies to new bookings only and is subject to availability. Offer applies to selected Summer 99 and Winter 2000 overseas holidays costing £449 or more per person. Free insurance applies to a maximum insurance cost of £100 per person. No cash alternative to free insurance. Some offers not available in all destinations. Price is after discount. Lunn Poly reserve the right to withdraw this offer without notice. Methods of payment accepted: Mastercard/American Express/Visa/Switch/Delta/Solo. Credit card surcharge of 1% applies to a maximum of £20. Please ask in shops for details and see the discount guarantee.



**"I  
need  
a  
break,  
now"**

You'll feel better  
after 3 nights  
for the price of 2  
at Posthouse



	London	3 nights	North of England	3 nights
London - Bloomsbury	£130	Bolton* (The Beaumont)	£84	
London - Gatwick	£110	Brighton*	£100	
London - Hampstead	£124	Carlisle*	£88	
London - Heathrow*	£100	Chester	£96	
London - Regent's Park	£138	Grimsby	£84	
		Haydock	£90	
		Hull	£84	
		Lancaster	£104	
		Leeds/Bradford	£88	
		Leeds/Selby	£82	
		Leeds* (The Queen's)	£120	
		Liverpool* (The Gladstone)	£82	
		Manchester*	£82	
		Manchester Airport	£100	
		Newcastle-upon-Tyne	£84	
		Preston	£84	
		Sheffield	£90	
		Teesside*	£82	
		Wakefield	£82	
		Warrington/Runcorn	£88	
		Washington*	£80	
		York	£90	
South of England	3 nights			
Ashford	£88	Basildon	£78	
Basingstoke*	£94	Brentwood	£96	
Bexley	£86	Cambridge	£96	
Bristol	£104	Colchester	£92	
Croydon	£92	Epping	£90	
Dover	£88	Ipwich	£88	
Fareham*	£96	Norwich	£88	
Farnborough	£108	Peterborough	£88	
Guildford	£108	Stevenage	£78	
Havant*	£96			
Hemel Hempstead	£88			
Maidstone/Sevenoaks	£98			
Plymouth	£98			
Portsmouth*	£100			
Reading	£92			
Rochester	£84			
South Mimms	£96			
Southampton/Eastleigh*	£90			
Swindon	£92			
Taunton	£90			
Central England	3 nights			
Aylesbury	£88			
Birmingham	£78			
Birmingham Airport	£114			
Birmingham City*	£96			
Coventry	£90			
Derby/Burton*	£88			
Gloucester	£92			
High Wycombe	£90			
Leicester	£75			
Lincoln	£87			
Milton Keynes	£94			
Nottingham City	£96			
Nottingham/Derby	£83			
Walsall* (The Boundary)	£82			
Scotland, Ireland and Wales	3 nights			
Aberdeen*	£80	TERMS & CONDITIONS		
Belfast	£74	Accommodation (Ftn/Sat) and full board		
Cardiff	£88	Accommodation (Ftn/Sat) and full board		
Cardiff City*	£96	Accommodation (Ftn/Sat) and full board		
Dublin Airport (IRE)	£114	Accommodation (Ftn/Sat) and full board		
Edinburgh*	£82	Accommodation (Ftn/Sat) and full board		
Glasgow (Erick Bridge)	£82	Accommodation (Ftn/Sat) and full board		
Glasgow Airport*	£76	Accommodation (Ftn/Sat) and full board		
Glasgow City	£78	Accommodation (Ftn/Sat) and full board		
Swansea*	£90	Accommodation (Ftn/Sat) and full board		

**Posthouse**

Offer available for breaks taken up to and including 14 Feb 1999

See your travel agent or call

**0345 40 40 40**

Quoting reference NEW YEAR

A division of Forte Hotels

## 8/HOME NEWS

**Politics:** After three weeks of government turmoil and division, The Independent revisits the voters of Middle England who deserted the Tories at the last election



**Mark Redfern, 31, engineer.**  
Voted Labour.  
"I would not vote for anybody now. I voted for Blair because he seemed decent but now he has let me down. I never expected schools would be shut down under Labour. That is not what was promised during the election campaign."



**Andrew Osciak, 45, supervisor.**  
Voted Conservative.  
"There is no leadership in the Tory party and you never hear of them. They seem irrelevant. There should be more consensus among parties so that the big problems facing the country can be dealt with properly. We want strong leadership."



**Susan Lovett, 41, housewife.**  
Voted Conservative.  
"Blair and his colleagues are ... power-mad and have made a fiasco out of being in government. The only good policy has been on Europe, because I agreed with Major's approach that we should wait and see whether we enter the single currency."



**Craig Coates, 40, clerk of works.**  
Voted Labour.  
"What happened to all their pledges on health and education? I am now very sceptical about politicians and have lost interest. Nothing significant has changed in this country since they have come into office."



**Roger Jones, 44, self-employed.**  
Voted Conservative.  
"I will wait two, three years before I judge New Labour's record. It will take time to turn around health and education. It is a shame about the resignations ... but perhaps that has been part of British politics for the past 20 years."



**Lionel Baird, 54, a paramedic.**  
Voted Conservative.  
Mr Baird said that the "back-biting and knife stabbing" between the Prime Minister and the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, has been the cause of a great deal of harm to the country at a time when the NHS was deteriorating.

# Mondeoland turns against 'weak and divided' Labour

BY SARAH SCHAEFER  
Political Reporter

THE LABOUR PARTY faces an uphill struggle to hang on to the support of thousands of middle England voters who deserted the Conservatives and voted Tony Blair into power in 1997.

This week we return to the west Midlands to see how voters in Redditch, Worcestershire - The Independent's general election panel of "Mondeoland men and women" - felt about Mr Blair and his party at the end of three weeks of upheaval, resignation and division in the Government.

And the answer is not much. They are disillusioned, think that the Government is behaving no differently to the Tories and many would not vote Labour again.

Mark Redfern, 31, an engineer, is typical of the panel when he says he would not want to vote for anyone if there was a general election tomorrow because "politicians are just as bad as each other."

"They all have skeletons in their closet. Before the election Labour said we could trust them and they would be open and trustworthy."

"They're not as bad as the Tories but then Labour has only been in Government for a

year and a half and not 18 years. It makes them look weak and divided. Tony Blair has let me down," he said.

Mr Redfern, who describes himself as "one of Thatcher's children", is also disappointed with the present Government's record on education.

"My seven-year-old son Matthew's school may get closed down under a Labour government that chose education as one of their key pledges. So far, Tony Blair has not done anything that he promised."

When Mr Blair campaigned during the 1997 general election, his efforts were focused on the likes of Mr Redfern - a relatively small group of middle class, middle England voters, who had abandoned Labour as their natural party of choice.

He told how in the 1992 general election, he had met a man on a Midlands housing estate washing his Ford Sierra who had become a Tory because he now owned his own house and was self-employed.

And the answer is not much. They are disillusioned, think that the Government is behaving no differently to the Tories and many would not vote Labour again.

Mark Redfern, 31, an engineer, is typical of the panel when he says he would not want to vote for anyone if there was a general election tomorrow because "politicians are just as bad as each other."

"They all have skeletons in their closet. Before the election Labour said we could trust them and they would be open and trustworthy."

"They're not as bad as the Tories but then Labour has only been in Government for a

year and a half and not 18 years. It makes them look weak and divided. Tony Blair has let me down," he said.

Mr Redfern, who describes himself as "one of Thatcher's children", is also disappointed with the present Government's record on education.

"My seven-year-old son Matthew's school may get closed down under a Labour government that chose education as one of their key pledges. So far, Tony Blair has not done anything that he promised."

When Mr Blair campaigned during the 1997 general election, his efforts were focused on the likes of Mr Redfern - a relatively small group of middle class, middle England voters, who had abandoned Labour as their natural party of choice.

He told how in the 1992 general election, he had met a man on a Midlands housing estate washing his Ford Sierra who had become a Tory because he now owned his own house and was self-employed.

And the answer is not much. They are disillusioned, think that the Government is behaving no differently to the Tories and many would not vote Labour again.

Mark Redfern, 31, an engineer, is typical of the panel when he says he would not want to vote for anyone if there was a general election tomorrow because "politicians are just as bad as each other."

"They all have skeletons in their closet. Before the election Labour said we could trust them and they would be open and trustworthy."

"They're not as bad as the Tories but then Labour has only been in Government for a

year and a half and not 18 years. It makes them look weak and divided. Tony Blair has let me down," he said.

Mr Redfern, who describes himself as "one of Thatcher's children", is also disappointed with the present Government's record on education.

"My seven-year-old son Matthew's school may get closed down under a Labour government that chose education as one of their key pledges. So far, Tony Blair has not done anything that he promised."

When Mr Blair campaigned during the 1997 general election, his efforts were focused on the likes of Mr Redfern - a relatively small group of middle class, middle England voters, who had abandoned Labour as their natural party of choice.

He told how in the 1992 general election, he had met a man on a Midlands housing estate washing his Ford Sierra who had become a Tory because he now owned his own house and was self-employed.

And the answer is not much. They are disillusioned, think that the Government is behaving no differently to the Tories and many would not vote Labour again.

Mark Redfern, 31, an engineer, is typical of the panel when he says he would not want to vote for anyone if there was a general election tomorrow because "politicians are just as bad as each other."

"They all have skeletons in their closet. Before the election Labour said we could trust them and they would be open and trustworthy."

"They're not as bad as the Tories but then Labour has only been in Government for a

year and a half and not 18 years. It makes them look weak and divided. Tony Blair has let me down," he said.

Mr Redfern, who describes himself as "one of Thatcher's children", is also disappointed with the present Government's record on education.

"My seven-year-old son Matthew's school may get closed down under a Labour government that chose education as one of their key pledges. So far, Tony Blair has not done anything that he promised."

When Mr Blair campaigned during the 1997 general election, his efforts were focused on the likes of Mr Redfern - a relatively small group of middle class, middle England voters, who had abandoned Labour as their natural party of choice.

He told how in the 1992 general election, he had met a man on a Midlands housing estate washing his Ford Sierra who had become a Tory because he now owned his own house and was self-employed.

And the answer is not much. They are disillusioned, think that the Government is behaving no differently to the Tories and many would not vote Labour again.

Mark Redfern, 31, an engineer, is typical of the panel when he says he would not want to vote for anyone if there was a general election tomorrow because "politicians are just as bad as each other."

"They all have skeletons in their closet. Before the election Labour said we could trust them and they would be open and trustworthy."

"They're not as bad as the Tories but then Labour has only been in Government for a

year and a half and not 18 years. It makes them look weak and divided. Tony Blair has let me down," he said.

Mr Redfern, who describes himself as "one of Thatcher's children", is also disappointed with the present Government's record on education.

"My seven-year-old son Matthew's school may get closed down under a Labour government that chose education as one of their key pledges. So far, Tony Blair has not done anything that he promised."

When Mr Blair campaigned during the 1997 general election, his efforts were focused on the likes of Mr Redfern - a relatively small group of middle class, middle England voters, who had abandoned Labour as their natural party of choice.

He told how in the 1992 general election, he had met a man on a Midlands housing estate washing his Ford Sierra who had become a Tory because he now owned his own house and was self-employed.

And the answer is not much. They are disillusioned, think that the Government is behaving no differently to the Tories and many would not vote Labour again.

Mark Redfern, 31, an engineer, is typical of the panel when he says he would not want to vote for anyone if there was a general election tomorrow because "politicians are just as bad as each other."

"They all have skeletons in their closet. Before the election Labour said we could trust them and they would be open and trustworthy."

"They're not as bad as the Tories but then Labour has only been in Government for a

year and a half and not 18 years. It makes them look weak and

# Blunkett prepares for school sell-off

ADVERTISEMENTS ARE published by the Government today for private firms to take over education services from local authorities.

David Blunkett, Secretary of State for Education, who announced the unprecedented step yesterday, made clear that if a council's services were all failed by inspectors, all might be contracted out.

Individual contracts to run the Government's numeracy and literacy strategies, council budgets and to help failing schools could be worth millions of pounds.

Firms such as the Nord Anglia education consultants, the American-based Edison Project and the non-profit-making CfBT education services have already put in bids to run a failing Surrey school and are expected to respond to national newspaper advertisements for a list of government-approved contractors.

So far no local education authority has been threatened with new government powers of intervention but ministers are known to be concerned about Hackney in east London, failed by inspectors more than a year ago.

In a speech which referred repeatedly to the New Labour agenda of "modernisation and reform", Mr Blunkett told the North of England Education Conference in Sunderland: "Where there is consistent failure to deliver adequate services we will intervene. If local education authorities [LEAs] have been doing it badly and doing it badly for a long time, we will

intervene. The Tories completely lost their will to be a party that our opposition is the embryo."

She is more critical of New Labour's Europe. Europe is one of Mrs Labour's main aims. The government is right in want to work and see single currency. The trees still seem to be Europe and people's extreme views on

the cost of potatoes has more than doubled because of last year's wet weather.

The British Potato Council (BPC) said yesterday that the average farm gate cost of a tonne of spuds had risen from £78 to £167 in 12 months. Much of last year's harvest was wrecked by heavy rainfall at crucial times of the year.

The price rise will prompt fears among millions of fish-and-chip aficionados that one of the country's favourite meals may no longer be a bargain.

A spokesman for the BPC said: "Chip shops like to use Maris Piper, which last year cost anything from £3 to £90 a tonne as they left the farm. This year a tonne costs anything between £80 and £230 depending on the quality."

"It was a wet spring and many potatoes were planted later than usual. There was a lot of rain during the growing season, and the low tempera-

BY LINUS GREGORIADIS

tures also caused problems for farmers." The total potato yield last year was 6.2 million tonnes compared with 6.8 million tonnes in 1997, said the BPC.

Anne Kirk, general secretary of the National Federation of Fish Fryers, said the price rise was a problem for the country's 8,500 fish-and-chip shops, but denied there was a crisis. She said: "Chip shop owners will have realised the price of potatoes has gone up and one or two have already raised their own prices."

But she added: "Although the prices at the moment are high, they are not nearly as high as in 1995 when a bag of potatoes cost around £13."

Fish-and-chip shops use 10 per cent of UK potato yield, and customers eat 30 million portions of chips a year. The price rises come just weeks before National Chip Week, which begins on 15 February.

## BASE RATE

With effect from  
close of business  
7 January 1999

The Royal Bank of Scotland

Base Rate has  
been decreased  
from 6.25% to  
6.00% per annum.

**The Royal Bank  
of Scotland**

The Royal Bank of Scotland plc.  
Registered Office: 36 St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 2YB.  
Registered in Scotland No. 90312.



For £55, dog owners can change their dog's coat from a natural shade to a lurid pink, red or yellow

RSPCA attacks dyed-dog craze

BY DARIUS SANAI

THE FOOTPATHS of suburbia are being graced with an increasing number of barking, hairy creatures in hues from magenta to purple. Yes, dog dyeing is in vogue.

Carole Flatt, one of the country's leading exponents of the art, said she is not sure what's behind the craze but it may have its origins in Manhattan, where in November *Vanity Fair* magazine published a picture of Monica Lewinsky holding a pink poodle. But not every owner can bring a dog in to her grooming salon and expect it to emerge, £55 later, in crimson. "The dog has to be of an extrovert temperament," she said.

The RSPCA is unmoved by the trend. A spokeswoman said: "It encourages people to view animals as fashion accessories and not respect them as pets. Dogs are there to be valued, not made fun of."

THE  
EXCLUSIVE  
TOYOTA  
AVENSIS SE.

FROM £13,495.

A strategically placed thumb may be used by prospective buyers when showing friends.



2 YEARS FREE SERVICING AVAILABLE ON ALL NEW TOYOTA AVENSIS CARS REGISTERED BY 31st JANUARY 1999.

With a choice of 1.6i saloon or 1.8i liftback, the sleek new Avensis SE boasts alloy wheels, air conditioning and radio/CD player as well as 2 years free servicing and a 3 year/60,000 mile warranty. That's on top of twin front and side airbags, ABS, power front windows and mirrors and remote control central locking. Yet surprisingly it starts from just £13,495. Prospective buyers should contact us immediately. Before we change our minds.

TELEPHONE 0800 777 555 [www.toyota.co.uk](http://www.toyota.co.uk)

the car in front is a  
 TOYOTA

FREE SERVICING OFFER COVERS 2 YEARS (2 SERVICES) ON ALL NEW TOYOTA AVENSIS CARS REGISTERED BETWEEN 16 DECEMBER 1998 AND 31 JANUARY 1999 AND EXCLUDES ESTABLISHED FLEET OPERATORS, DIPLOMATIC, TAX FREE AND SPECIAL SALES PURCHASE SCHEMES. MODEL SHOWN AVENSIS 1.6i SE 4 DOOR WITH OPTIONAL LUCERNE SILVER METALLIC PAINT AT £249, TOTAL PRICE £13,744. MODEL SHOWN SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY.

# Fixed-rate borrowers losing out

THOUSANDS OF hapless borrowers who took out fixed mortgages two or three years ago at seemingly advantageous rates face the prospect of vastly higher monthly payments than the deals that are available today.

The sudden fall in base rates in the past three months, which on Thursday saw a further base rate cut to 6 per cent, has also led to a drop of about 1.5 points in the cost of a variable mortgage. This has left stranded many borrowers who tried to gamble on future interest rate movements.

Among the worst-affected borrowers are the many who opted for fixed rates between 1995 and the general election in May 1997. Before this, the money markets assumed that the election of a Labour government would lead to higher long-term interest rates.

Five-year and longer-term mortgages, heavily touted by some lenders at the time, were priced accordingly. In July 1995, for example, Abbey National offered a fixed-rate mortgage at 8.75 per cent, expiring in August

2000. Those who took that loan would now be paying 1.8 points more than a variable rate deal through Nationwide Building Society. On a £100,000 interest-only loan, that means the fixed-rate loan is currently costing an extra £140 a month.

At the Halifax, a five-year fixed mortgage in November 1996 was pegged at 8.55 per cent. Those who took one out are now paying £566 a month on a £100,000 loan, compared with the bank's current variable rate of 8.02 a month.

In May 1997, five-year deals for first-time borrowers were pegged at 7.65 per cent - a repayment of £618 a month for those who snapped one up. They are now discovering that they cannot switch to a better deal with another lender - or even move to their own mortgage provider's variable rate - because of the heavy redemption penalties. An unnamed mortgage broker said yesterday: "To be honest, I am con-

stantly amazed at the stupidity of some people. They think a building society account is too risky, yet are willing to take a punt on long-term interest rates like some Liffe [London International Financial Futures Exchange] barrow-boy dealer. Fixed-rate mortgages are there for security, not to gamble on."

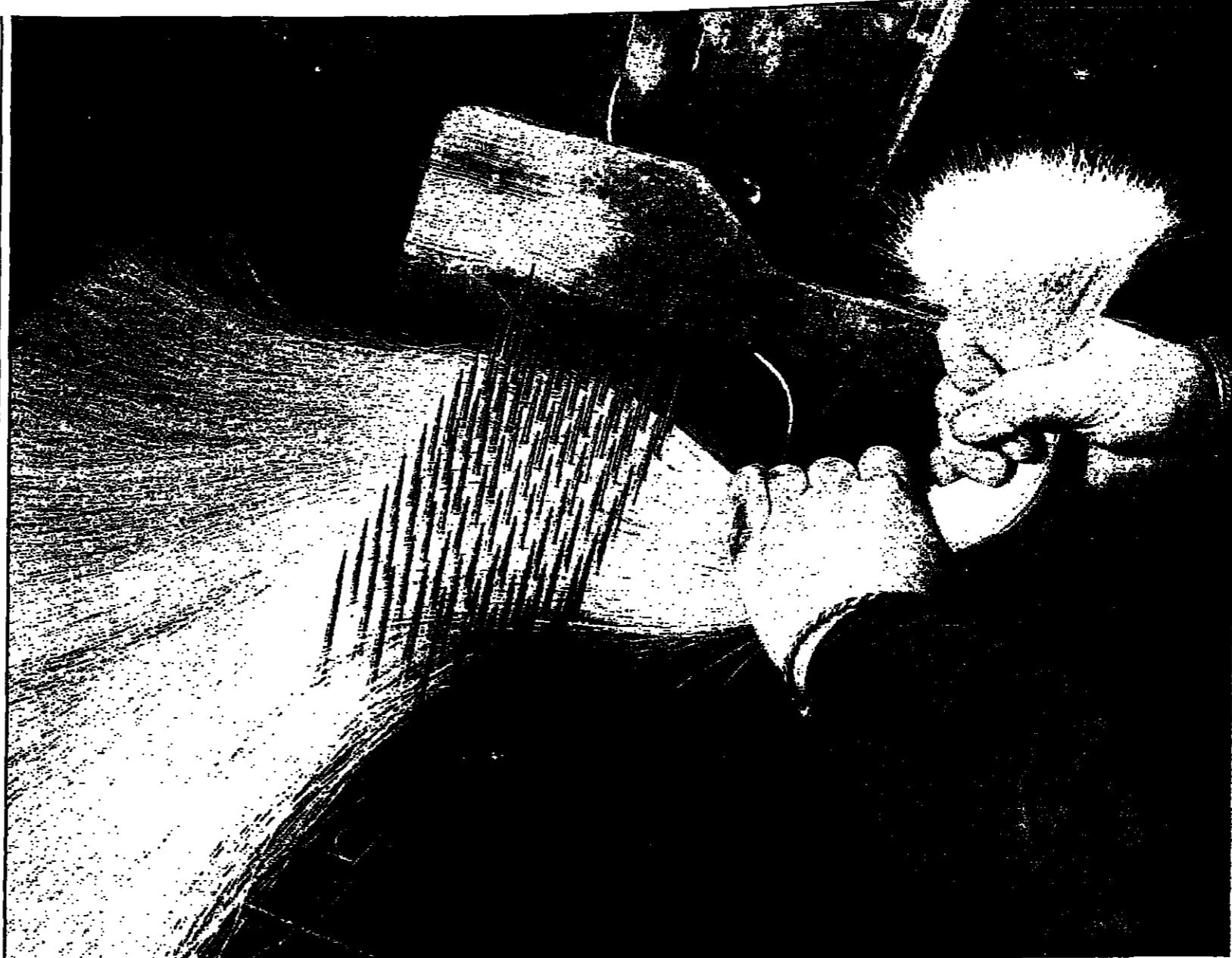
Ray Boulger, technical manager at John Charcol, the UK's largest mortgage broker, said: "One thing to remember is that fixed rates varied widely, even at their most expensive point. Anyone who took independent advice on their loan should still be okay because we were able to recommend the cheapest loans at any time. Moreover, we were also advising people against taking out longer-term fixes because they were too expensive."

A Halifax spokeswoman said: "There will be some people who took a loan out in that period who will find themselves paying considerably more now. But for a considerable period, when rates were higher, they actually gained."

Dyed horse tails being combed at John Boyd Textiles, Britain's last horse hair fabric factory, which is fighting to stop its mill at Castle Cary, Somerset, being turned into flats. Its looms, which weave fabric to restore Victorian upholstery, were installed in 1872. Christopher Jones

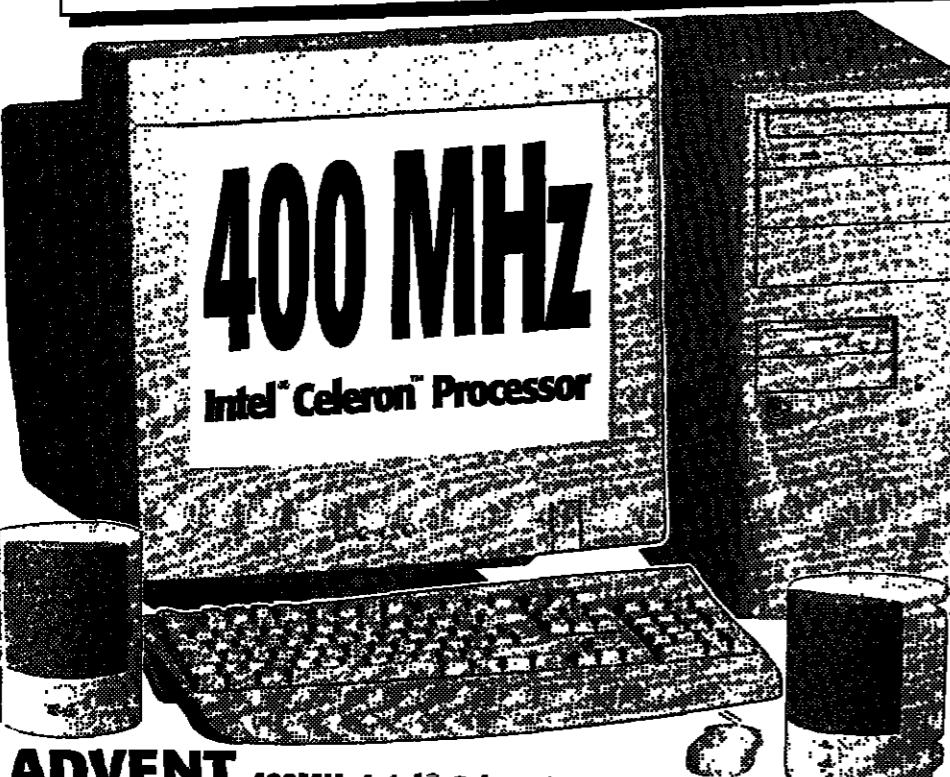
stantly amazed at the stupidity of some people. They think a building society account is too risky, yet are willing to take a punt on long-term interest rates like some Liffe [London International Financial Futures Exchange] barrow-boy dealer. Fixed-rate mortgages are there for security, not to gamble on."

By NIC CIRUTTI  
Personal Finance Editor



# New Intel® Processor PCs

## AVAILABLE IN-STORE TODAY



**ADVENT** 400MHz Intel® Celeron™ Processor

- 64MB SDRAM
- 128K Cache Memory
- 8.6Gb Seagate Hard Disk
- 32x Multimedia
- 8Mb 3D AGP ATI Rage Pro Graphics
- 128K SmartCache
- 56k v.90 Modem.
- Creative Labs Soundblaster 64-bit PCI Soundcard with Speakers
- 17" Colour Monitor\*\* (Free upgrade from 15") MODEL: 8270.

**FREE 17" MONITOR UPGRADE\*\***

**8.6Gb HARD DISK**

**CREATIVE LABS SOUNDBLASTER 64-BIT PCI SOUND CARD**

**56k v.90 MODEM**

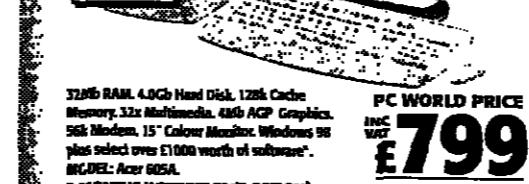
**PC WORLD PRICE**  
**£880.08**

INC VAT  
9 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION\*

**PC WORLD**  
THE COMPUTER SUPERSTORE



**ACER**  
333MHz Intel® Celeron™ Processor



**PACKARD BELL**  
333MHz Intel® Celeron™ Processor



**PACKARD BELL**  
366MHz Intel® Celeron™ Processor



**PACKARD BELL**  
366MHz Intel® Celeron™ Processor



**PACKARD BELL**  
366MHz Intel® Celeron™ Processor



**PACKARD BELL**  
366MHz Intel® Celeron™ Processor

**APR 29.5%**

**STORES NATIONWIDE  
FOR YOUR NEAREST  
STORE CALL  
0990 464 464**

We won't  
be beaten  
on price\*

**PC WORLD**  
THE COMPUTER SUPERSTORE

\*Up to 12 months interest free option. Account is interest free if repaid in full before the 12th monthly payment. Options are as follows: 5 months for products over £1000 inc VAT. Typical example: Cash price £1500 inc VAT, 10% deposit of £150. 11 monthly payments of £145.64. Balance of £1215.24 to be paid before the 12th payment. 0% interest. Total paid £1500 inc VAT. \*\*SPLIT THE COST WITH 4 MONTHLY PAYMENTS. Typical example: If balance is not settled before the 12th month option price, Cash price £1500 inc VAT, 10% deposit of £150. 48 monthly payments of £25.00. Total paid £1500 inc VAT. Deposit Credit Option available in-store. Written Credit quotations are available on request from: Dept. MIF/PC, Maylands Avenue, Hemel Hempstead HP2 7TG. \*\*Free 17" monitor upgrade - Model C17K. The Intel Inside logo, Pentium, MMX and Celeron are registered trade marks of the Intel Corporation. Based on current selling prices of equal or equivalent titles (excluding disks and manuals for pre-loaded software). By voucher redemption. Shipping and handling charged at £5.49 £1000 inc VAT - manufacturers recommended retail price.

## McLibel two in new court challenge

By SARAH WILSON

THE FAST food chain McDonald's, which spent about £10m to win an uncollectable £60,000 in the "McLibel" saga, is to throw thousands more into contesting an appeal by the activists in the case.

Helen Steel, 33, and Dave Morris, 44, who have an income of less than £7,500 a year between them, are appealing against the ruling that they libelled McDonald's in a "fact-sheet" first published by London Greenpeace in the late Eighties.

A leading human rights barrister has provided the pair with detailed advice for free, although they will still represent themselves in court.

On Tuesday, Richard Rampion QC, one of the most respected libel silks in the country, will confront them once again.

The first time, despite their lack of legal training, the pair proved several important points. This time they might even win. They will argue that a multi-national corporation should not be able to sue for libel in the same way that governments and local authorities are barred from taking legal action.

The outcome of the appeal is less important for the activists, however, than the publicity it will generate. A website set up by volunteers during the first



Helen Steel: Second bite at the fast food giant

trial has been accessed more than 65 million times. The publicity surrounding the trial has given green activists a platform for disseminating embarrassing information about McDonald's far more widely than any leaflet could.

On the day the appeal hearing begins, activists will also screen a film about the case at 100 cinemas and on cable networks around the world, including 18 in Britain.

A spokesman for McDonald's Restaurants Ltd, the UK arm of the worldwide corporation, yesterday defended its decision to spend more money in court. "There were many very serious allegations aired ... at the initial trial. We welcomed the judgment when it was handed down. It is very important [it] is upheld," he said.

### Current Account Rates for Personal Customers

From start of business on 9th January 1999 the following rates of interest are applicable to the accounts set out below:

AER % GROSS % NET %

Interest Cheque Account £1+ 0.20 0.20 0.16

Select Account £1+ 0.20 0.20 0.16

Student Account £1+ 0.50 0.50 0.40

TSB Bank Account for Under 19s £1+ 2.52 2.50 2.00

Accounts no longer available for new business

TSB Service Account £1+ 0.20 0.20 0.16

Details of our current account rates are available by calling 0845 300 0103. Alternatively visit our website www.tsb.co.uk

**TSB**

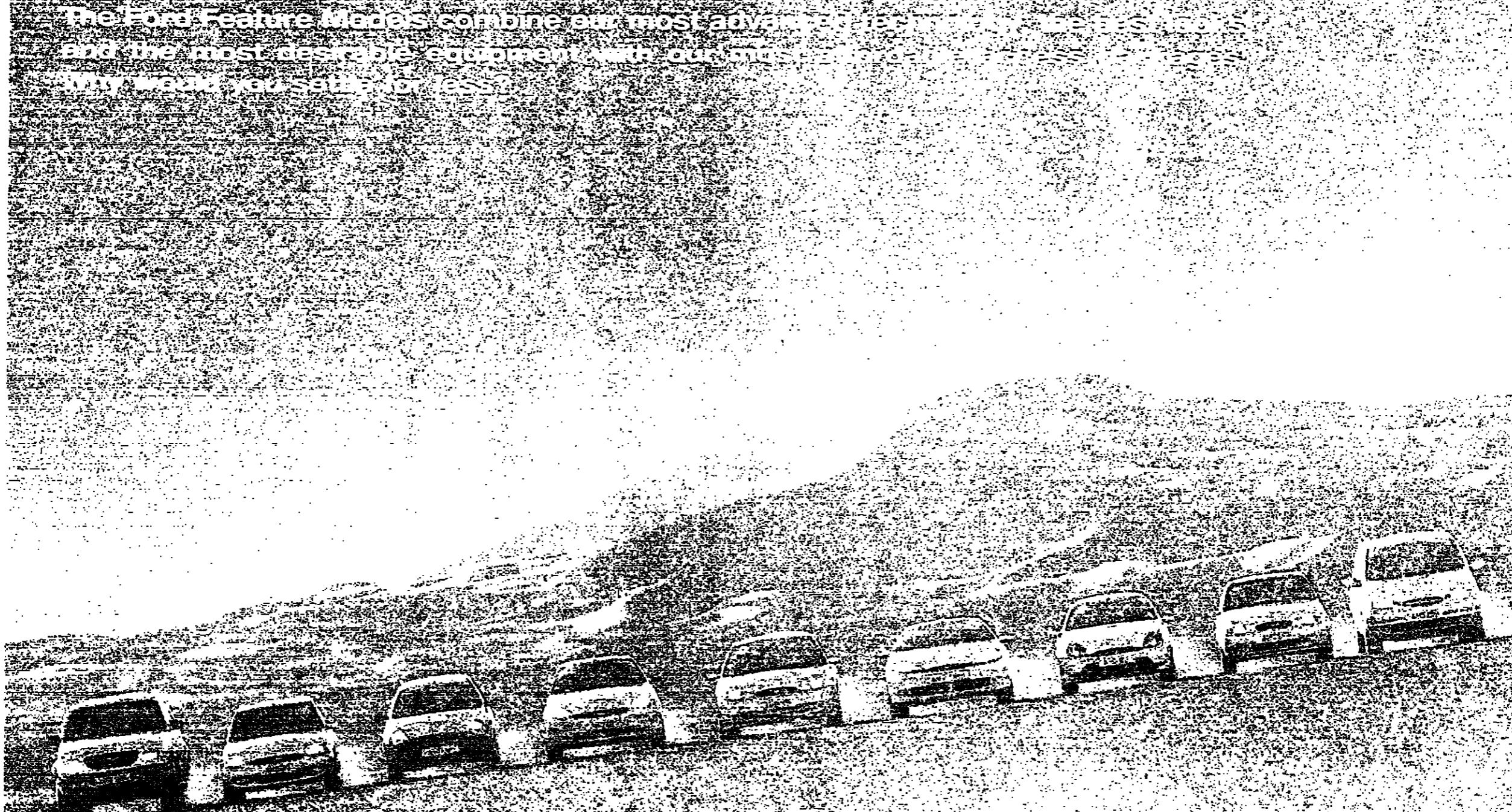
Interest rates may vary from time to time. All rates are per annum except where stated. AER stands for Annual Equivalent Rate and is the nominal rate which illustrates the gross or tax-free rate of interest which is compounded on an annual basis. As every advertisement for a savings product will contain an AER it will be easier to compare more easily what return you can expect from your money over time. Gross SS is the gross annual compound rate of interest payable before the deduction of income tax at the rate decided by law. NET - The rate of interest which would be payable after allowing for the deduction of tax at the rate specified by law. Interest is normally paid at the net rate, unless the account falls within an exempt category or the Account Holder qualifies to receive interest gross.

TSB Bank plc, 71 Lombard Street, London EC3P 3BS.

TSB Bank Scotland plc, Henry Duncan House, 120 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 4LH.

£97 p  
on 0%  
With tv  
insurance

# The 1999 Ford Feature Models



## Ka

**£7,750** on the road

Power steering  
Driver's airbag  
1.3 SEFI engine  
Engine immobiliser  
Tinted glass  
Stereo / radio cassette

**£97 pm 11.9% APR**  
on Options

With two years  
insurance\*

(plus deposit and optional final purchase payment)

Monthly payments £96.86  
Mileage pa 12,000  
Deposit £2,712.50  
Balance £5,037.50  
Total credit charges £1,017.14<sup>t</sup>  
Total payable £8,787.14  
Term 25 months  
24 monthly payments of  
£96.86  
Optional final purchase  
payment £3,680.00

## Fiesta Zetec

**£9,450** on the road

Power steering  
Driver's airbag  
16v 1.25 engine  
Central locking  
Self correcting rear suspension  
Alloy wheels

**£125 pm 11.9% APR**  
on Options

With two years  
insurance\*

(plus deposit and optional final purchase payment)

Monthly payments £124.97  
Mileage pa 12,000  
Deposit £3,300.00  
Balance £6,150.00  
Total credit charges £1,207.28<sup>t</sup>  
Total payable £10,657.28  
Term 25 months  
24 monthly payments of  
£124.97  
Optional final purchase  
payment £4,288.00

## Focus Zetec

**£12,850** on the road

Power steering  
Driver & passenger airbags  
16v 1.6 / 16v 1.8 engine  
Remote central double locking  
Independent rear suspension  
Alloy wheels

**£167 pm 11.9% APR**  
on Options

(plus deposit and optional final purchase payment)

Monthly payments £166.73  
Mileage pa 12,000  
Deposit £4,497.50  
Balance £8,352.50  
Total credit charges £1,623.02<sup>t</sup>  
Total payable £14,473.02  
Term 25 months  
24 monthly payments of  
£166.73  
Optional final purchase  
payment £5,904.00

## Mondeo Verona

**£14,020** on the road

Power steering  
Driver's airbag  
16v 1.8 engine  
Air conditioning  
Multi-link suspension  
Alloy wheels

**£197 pm 8.9% APR**  
on Options

0% APR finance  
over three years<sup>tt</sup>

(plus deposit and optional final purchase payment)

Monthly payments £197.00  
Mileage pa 12,000  
Deposit £4,907.00  
Balance £9,113.00  
Total credit charges £1,279.00<sup>t</sup>  
Total payable £15,299.00  
Term 25 months  
24 monthly payments of  
£197.00  
Optional final purchase  
payment £5,594.00

**The 1999 Ford Feature Models. All you ever wanted.**



Ford Focus

Retail customers only. Subject to availability for cars registered by 31 January 1999. 0% Finance requires 50% minimum deposit. \*Finance/insurance subject to status and conditions. Metallic paint extra cost on on Ka, Fiesta Zetec and Ford Focus Zetec. <sup>t</sup>Total charge for credit includes a finance facility fee of £70, payable with the first monthly payment. Further charges may be made subject to mileage/condition if the vehicle is returned at the end of the finance agreement. <sup>tt</sup>0% APR Finance Typical Example: Mondeo Verona 5dr. Deposit £7,010.08. Balance £7,009.92 Total charge for credit nil. Total amount payable £14,020.36 monthly payments of £194.72. APR 0%. Written quotations available on request: Freepost FCE Bank plc. Guarantees/indemnities may be required.



Ford Dealers





# BLAIR IN SOUTH AFRICA

## Blairs moved by dying six-year-old

TONY BLAIR was visibly moved yesterday when he met the six-year-old girl the Blairs are sponsoring in a South African care home for children dying of Aids.

The Blairs first met the child two years ago and have been sponsoring her with a gift of £15 a month, but now she is living on borrowed time.

The girl, whom reporters were asked to call Mary to protect her anonymity, was HIV-positive at birth and was abandoned by her mother, who had Aids.

Mr Blair kept hold of Mary's hand from the moment he emerged from the Nazareth House care home for a photocall on the sunbaked lawn and play area.

While Cherie Blair played with other children, who are also suffering from the disease, Mr Blair took Mary to a climbing frame and chatted quietly to her.

"The contribution people make is up to individuals but the

BY COLIN BROWN  
in Cape Town

don't get fostered," said the spokeswoman.

The visit highlighted the £10m in funding that Britain is giving globally over the next three years towards combating Aids. Much of the help will go to South Africa, which has one of the fastest growing rates of HIV infection in the world - 1,500 new cases each day, compared with the same total each year in the UK.

It is estimated that by 2006 - when South Africa hopes to host the World Cup - more people will die from Aids than from all other causes, and there could be two million Aids orphans like Mary.

The children's home is located in an idyllic setting, under Table Mountain, on a hillside with a garden fringed by palm trees, and with a view to the Atlantic.

Mr Blair also announced a grant to the home of £20,000, which will allow an extension to be built to take another 14 HIV-positive children.

The Blairs have been kept informed of Mary's progress with photographs of the child, and occasional letters. All the children at the home, which is run by nuns, have arrived through the courts. "Children with Aids



Mr Blair chats with children infected with the Aids virus at Nazareth House, where the girl his family sponsors is cared for Peter Andrews



**SAAB**  
beyond the  
conventional

## Accounting for taste.



With discerning taste. A vehicle that delivers exceptional performance and superb mid-range acceleration, balanced with a safety system that gives you the confidence to use it!

The driver's environment has many standard features including automatic climate control and the sleek body and distinctive rear wedge are the epitome of good taste.

Control and safety, however, aren't limited to the car. Business users can drive a Saab 9-5 Saloon from as little as £375 per month with Saab Contract Hire.

A contract which offers precise financial control and peace of mind.

The Saab 9-5. The car that proves it is possible to account for taste.

### FOR BUSINESS USERS ONLY. THE SAAB CONTRACT HIRE SCHEME

• Cash Price = £22,795

Initial Rental = £1,200.00 + VAT

Monthly Rental = 33 x £375.00 + VAT

Includes £75 acceptance fee. Extra mileage is charged at 10.6 pence per mile + VAT.

Typical Examples New Saab 9-5 2.0, 4 door manual - list price £22,795 on the road incl. £75 first registration fee, 36 months/45,000 miles  
Offer ends 28.2.99

For further details of your nearest Saab dealer, see Yellow Pages  
or call free on 0800 626556 (Mon-Fri 9.00-5.00).  
Alternatively, visit our website at [www.saab.co.uk](http://www.saab.co.uk)

150

## Three hit as police fire on Muslims

SOUTH AFRICAN police said that at least three people were injured in Cape Town yesterday when officers opened fire on Muslim militants attempting to demonstrate outside a function attended by the British Prime Minister, Tony Blair.

The incident occurred shortly after Mr Blair's party arrived at Cape Town's 17th-century Dutch castle, where he was to present medals to 15 British soldiers attached to the South African National Defence Forces. Among those injured were Talia Bader, a leader of the militant C-Force Islamic group in Cape Town, and Lynn Murray, a reporter with the South African Broadcasting Corporation, who was hit by shotgun pellets in the legs and hand.

A police spokesman said that the officers present had fired a stun grenade and rubber bullets to disperse the protesters, who had not been given permission to demonstrate and who had been chanting death threats against Mr Blair.

He could not confirm the use of shotguns, although reporters present, including *The Independent*, saw or heard officers firing at least 20 rounds from leveled shotguns in the direction of the crowd. Despite the end of apartheid-era unrest, shotgun rounds, euphemistically called "bird shot", are still routinely used for riot control.

While police later claimed that they believed shots had been fired at them from the crowd, no journalists or civilian witnesses could confirm this.

The first shots, including a number of tear gas canisters, appeared to have been directed at the protest leaders when they failed to disperse, at about 4.30pm. A police spokesman,

BY ED O'LOUGHLIN  
in Cape Town

Inspector Eugene Sizer, later confirmed that Ms Bader appeared to have been struck in the head by a rubber bullet.

Other demonstrators, including a young boy, were also seen to be injured but managed to flee to escape arrest. Police opened fire again, five minutes later, when a number of Muslim men and youths regrouped and began to hurl stones and missiles. It was at this point that the journalist was hit.

Last night Mr Blair played down the violence and the demonstrations. "You get used to protesters and there weren't very many of them. I think it's pretty limited and there were a very small number of demonstrators," he said.

A South African minister apologised to Mr Blair for the violence when he later made his speech in the South African Parliament building. "We express our regrets. We support free speech but this must be done without violence," Kader Asmal, the Minister for Water, told Mr Blair.

The shootings marked the culmination of two days of "cat and mouse" between Cape Town's police and members of the area's small but vocal Muslim minority, seeking to demonstrate their anger at the recent British and American military attacks on Iraq.

On Thursday, several members of a group calling itself Muslims Against Global Oppression were arrested after pistol shots were fired at a police vehicle attempting to break up an illegal march from the US consulate to the British High Commission.

## PM helps to save swimmer

TONY BLAIR has gone where even the boldest spin doctor might fear to position him. It emerged yesterday that Mr Blair helped save a drowning man's life, pulling him out of the sea in the Seychelles and on to the yacht that the Prime Minister had chartered for the day.

Actually the man wasn't exactly drowning but "would soon have been in big trouble" and Mr Blair didn't get into the water to rescue him.

No matter. This was a spin doctor's dream come true. Not only was Mr Blair a hero. But had he returned from holiday earlier to ensure his children were back at school on time then clearly a man might have died.

But some elements of the story did lack the heroic touch. Mr Blair had taken to the water because his mobile phone couldn't get a signal on the

beach. The holidaymaker did not recognise his rescuer.

But the skipper of the boat, Gerard Mulfard, was effusive in his praise. He explained: "Mr Blair called out and asked him if he needed help, and he said 'yes'." He added: "Mr Blair was very calm. He just said to him 'We can help you. Where do you want us to take you?' We got the dinghy alongside the man and he was able to climb in, but all three of us [including a bodyguard] gave him extra help to get him into the boat."

Police in the Seychelles capital, Victoria, just said an incident occurred and the Prime Minister hauled the man on board. But then police the world over can be jealous of the drama, publicity and awe generated by a true super-hero.

first effect

do  
he  
you

hassle free  
0800

# Saddam 'lost key advisers' to Desert Fox

LAST MONTH's bombing of Iraq by the United States and Britain claimed the lives of several key figures in the upper echelons of President Saddam Hussein's government and has forced him to take "desperate" measures to retain control of his country, US military officials suggested last night.

In briefings to reporters, American military commanders claimed that the damage caused by the bombardment was more serious than previously thought. The strikes, they said, had killed hundreds of President Saddam's elite Republican Guard and caused widespread physical damage to his military infrastructure.

They suggested that the impact of the strikes offered one explanation for the recent provocations of American and British jets patrolling the northern and southern no-fly zones in Iraq. Revealing that Iraqi aircraft had violated the zones on 40 occasions in recent weeks, General Anthony Zinni said Iraq was apparently seeking to shoot down one of the patrolling jets in a "desperate attempt ... to claim some sort of victory".

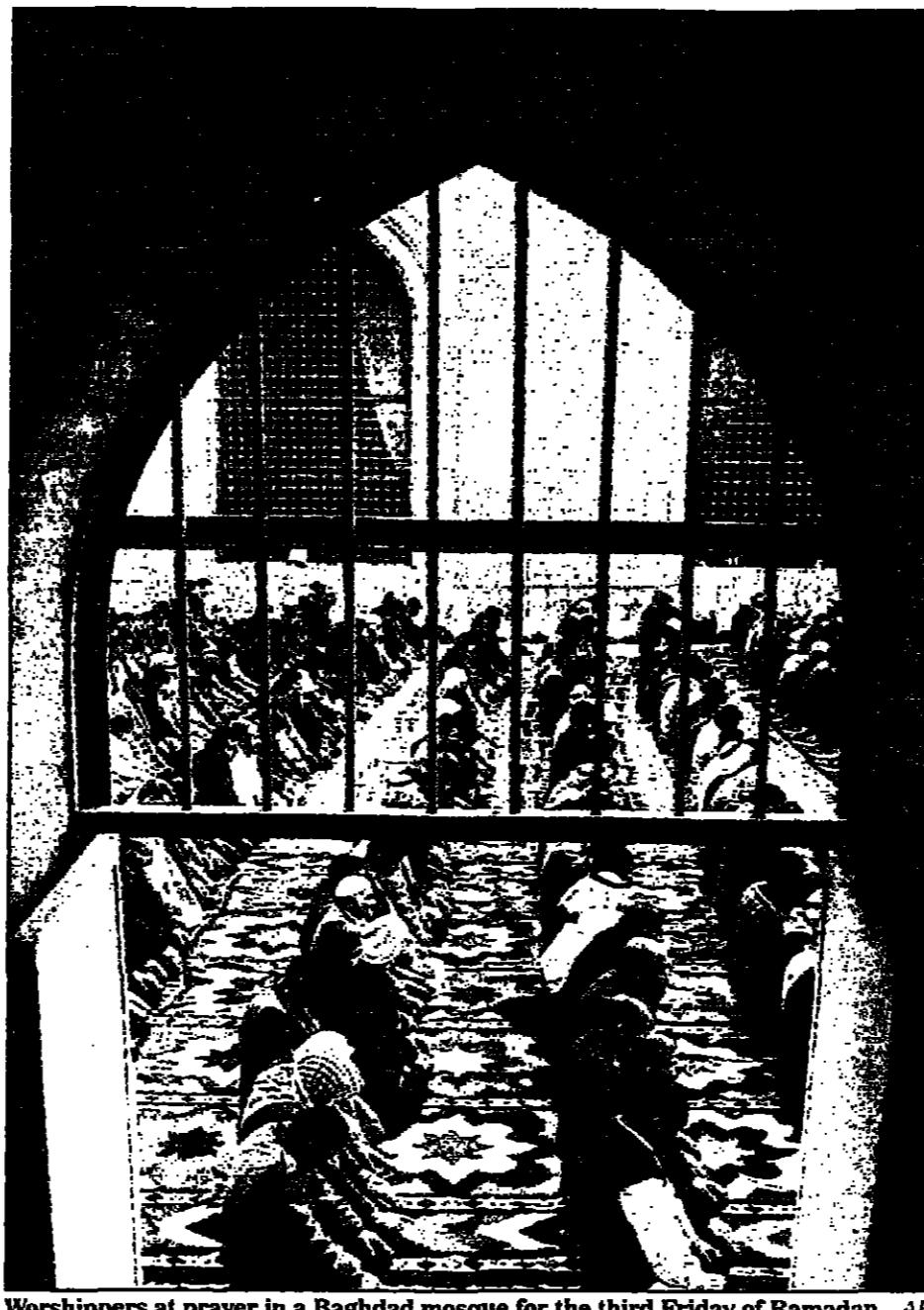
BY DAVID USBOURNE  
in New York

While cautioning that he did not want to "overstate" the internal difficulties faced by President Saddam, General Zinni said Washington "is seeing things that indicate that maybe his grip on control and the ruthlessness by which he attempts to maintain control is slipping". General Zinni is in charge of the US Central Command and was the commander of Operation Desert Fox.

The general said that during the 16-19 December campaign, President Saddam had ordered the executions of military commanders considered to be traitors.

He added, meanwhile, that an estimated 600-1,600 soldiers in the Republican Guard had been killed during the assault and that "several times" that number had been wounded.

The briefings will be seen in some quarters as an attempt by the Clinton administration to answer scepticism about the effectiveness of the December strikes. Concern continues to mount that neither Washington nor London has any clear policy to pursue in Iraq in the wake of the attacks.



Worshippers at prayer in a Baghdad mosque for the third Friday of Ramadan AP

## Sharp rise in German jobless

GERMANY'S SOCIAL Democratic government, which came to power last autumn promising to vanquish unemployment, was yesterday hit by a steep rise in the jobless figures.

Almost no expert expects the German economy to match last year's growth rate of 2.7 per cent. The government has pencilled in 2 per cent, most banks expect about 1.8 per cent, and this week the prestigious German Economic Institute (DIW) predicted 1.4 per cent.

Taking seasonal factors into consideration, the rise in joblessness last month was less bad than it appeared. German unemployment always rises in winter, and the seasonally adjusted jobless figure rose by a moderate 34,000 to 4.15 million.

But whatever the true state of employment, the latest figures seem to confirm the long-awaited slowing of the economy.

BY IMRE KARACS  
in Bonn

Interest rates, these stand at 3 per cent in euroland. Although Win Duisenberg, the president of the ECB, has so far resisted calls for further interest rate cuts, most economists expect him to yield in the coming months.

Almost no expert expects the German economy to match last year's growth rate of 2.7 per cent.

The government has pencilled in 2 per cent, most banks expect about 1.8 per cent, and this week the prestigious German Economic Institute (DIW) predicted 1.4 per cent.

As the mirage of new jobs fades, the government of Chancellor Gerhard Schröder is coming under increasing pressure to resort to traditional Keynesian methods of boosting the stumbling economy.

But Oskar Lafontaine, the Finance Minister and leading advocate in Europe of state intervention in the labour market, will try to duck the issue. Tensions between the government and the European Central Bank (ECB) are likely to rise as he puts the blame on excessively high in-

flation. Lafontaine's support for the ECB's policy of low interest rates has been a major factor in the recent upturn in the economy.

But whatever the true state of employment, the latest figures seem to confirm the long-awaited slowing of the economy.

BY IMRE KARACS  
in Bonn

first direct  
do things  
how  
you want

hassle free 24 hour banking  
0800 24 24 24  
www.firstdirect.co.uk

For full written details of our services write to First Direct, Freepost, Leeds LS9 2PF. First Direct reserves the right to decline to open an account for you. To maintain a quality service, calls may be monitored and/or recorded. Applicants must be 18 or over. Member HSBC Group

## Heads roll in US Olympic bribes scandal

BY DAVID USBOURNE  
in New York

THE SCANDAL, that has rocked Salt Lake City, over allegations that bribes were paid to help its successful bid to stage the Winter Olympics in 2002 claimed its first victim yesterday when the city's most senior Olympic officials resigned.

As allegations of illegal inducements to members of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), continue to multiply, the Salt Lake Olympic Committee president, Frank Joklik, resigned but will stay on until a successor is hired. He asked for and received the resignation of senior vice-president Dave Johnson. Two other officials were placed on paid leave.

In announcing his resignation, Mr Joklik confirmed that the bid committee which landed the Games for the city had paid IOC members cash and gifts, in one case more than \$70,000 in cash.

The New York Times said that the payments could have been made during an IOC meeting in Budapest in 1995.

Salt Lake City won the competition to become the Winter Games 2002 venue by a landslide vote at that meeting.

The resignations, the latest

moves in what has become the

worst ethics scandal in

Olympics history, were

announced after a joint session of the Salt Lake and US

committee.

According to the Associated Press, Mr Joklik was able soon afterwards to sell the land, at a profit of \$60,000, in a deal organised directly through a member of the city's Olympic bid committee.

# Sale

## The Link

**SAVE 50%\***

**MOTOROLA ONE 2 ONE DIGITAL MOBILE PHONE**

- Flip design - answers/ends calls and protects the keypad
- Up to 240 minutes talktime/ 60 hours standby
- Model: M760 Was £99.99\*  
SAVE 50% £49.99\*  
Plus £15 for Connection

**MOTOROLA ONE 2 ONE ULTRA-COMPACT DIGITAL MOBILE PHONE**

- 199 name and number memory
- Up to 100 minutes talktime/ 30 hours standby
- Model: StarTAC Royale Was £99.99\*  
SAVE 50% £49.99\*  
Plus £15 for Connection

**SIEMENS ONE 2 WEEKEND ONE YEAR VALUE PACKAGE**

- Includes 12 Months Line Rental, Connection, Free Local Weekend Calls and Digital Mobile Phone
- Model: S6 Was £129.99\*  
SAVE 50% £64.99\*  
Plus £15 for Connection

**NOKIA ONE 2 ONE DIGITAL MOBILE PHONE**

- Dual band phone for improved international coverage
- Infra-red link for wire-free communication with a compatible PC
- Model: 6150 Was £149.99\*  
SAVE 50% £74.99\*  
Plus £15 for Connection

**FAX MACHINES**

**PHILIPS PLAIN PAPER FAX WITH ANSWERING MACHINE**

- Digital answering machine with 10 messages
- Recording time: 10 minutes
- Model: MAGIC VOX Was £299.99\*  
SAVE 50% £149.99\*  
Plus £15 for Connection

**PHILIPS FAX MACHINE**

- Digital answering
- Recording time: 10 minutes
- Model: HFC227/11 Was £199.99\*  
SAVE 50% £99.99\*  
Plus £15 for Connection

**BROTHER PLAIN PAPER FAX MACHINE**

- Digital answering
- Recording time: 10 minutes
- Model: FAX-280 Was £249.99\*  
SAVE 50% £124.99\*  
Plus £15 for Connection

**HANDHELD PCS**

**PALM PILOT HANDHELD PC WITH HANDWRITING RECOGNITION**

- Handwriting recognition
- Model: PROFESSIONAL Was £399.99\*  
SAVE 50% £199.99\*  
Plus £15 for Connection

**PALM III HANDHELD PC WITH INFRARED COMMUNICATION**

- Infrared communication
- Model: Was £229.99\*  
SAVE 50% £114.99\*  
Plus £15 for Connection

**PSION SERIES 3MX HANDHELD PC**

- Infrared communication
- Model: Was £229.99\*  
SAVE 50% £114.99\*  
Plus £15 for Connection

**BRITAIN'S BIGGEST CHOICE**

**Choose from over**

- 50 mobiles
- 120 telephones
- 15 faxes
- 20 pagers

**EXPERT ADVICE**

We will help you choose the right product for your needs.

**GUARANTEED LOWEST PRICES**

We won't be beaten on price!

**OVER 165 STORES NATIONWIDE**

**Freephone**  
0500 222 666  
For your nearest store

**The Link**

Watch out for our Voucher Specials. Look out for the special voucher settings on the products in this offer document. Simply take this advert to any Link store to claim your discount. One voucher can be purchased for use with other offers. Discount valid until 31/01/99. \*Offer extended until 31/01/99. Total payable £250.00. Total deposit £250.00. Total interest £10.00. Total APR 20.59%. All rates subject to status. When you open a Select 2-line account, you will receive a £100.00 cashback. Call 0500 222 666 for details. \*Offer extended until 31/01/99. Total payable £250.00. Total deposit £250.00. Total interest £10.00. Total APR 20.59%. All rates subject to status. When you open a Select 2-line account, you will receive a £100.00 cashback. Call 0500 222 666 for details. \*Offer extended until 31/01/99. Total payable £250.00. Total deposit £250.00. Total interest £10.00. Total APR 20.59%. All rates subject to status. When you open a Select 2-line account, you will receive a £100.00 cashback. Call 0500 222 666 for details. \*Offer extended until 31/01/99. Total payable £250.00. Total deposit £250.00. Total interest £10.00. Total APR 20.59%. All rates subject to status. When you open a Select 2-line account, you will receive a £100.00 cashback. Call 0500 222 666 for details. \*Offer extended until 31/01/99. Total payable £250.00. Total deposit £250.00. Total interest £10.00. Total APR 20.59%. All rates subject to status. When you open a Select 2-line account, you will receive a £100.00 cashback. Call 0500 222 666 for details. \*Offer extended until 31/01/99. Total payable £250.00. Total deposit £250.00. Total interest £10.00. Total APR 20.59%. All rates subject to status. When you open a Select 2-line account, you will receive a £100.00 cashback. Call 0500 222 666 for details. \*Offer extended until 31/01/99. Total payable £250.00. Total deposit £250.00. Total interest £10.00. Total APR 20.59%. All rates subject to status. When you open a Select 2-line account, you will receive a £100.00 cashback. Call 0500 222 666 for details. \*Offer extended until 31/01/99. Total payable £250.00. Total deposit £250.00. Total interest £10.00. Total APR 20.59%. All rates subject to status. When you open a Select 2-line account, you will receive a £100.00 cashback. Call 0500 222 666 for details. \*Offer extended until 31/01/99. Total payable £250.00. Total deposit £250.00. Total interest £10.00. Total APR 20.59%. All rates subject to status. When you open a Select 2-line account, you will receive a £100.00 cashback. Call 0500 222 666 for details. \*Offer extended until 31/01/99. Total payable £250.00. Total deposit £250.00. Total interest £10.00. Total APR 20.59%. All rates subject to status. When you open a Select 2-line account, you will receive a £100.00 cashback. Call 0500 222 666 for details. \*Offer extended until 31/01/99. Total payable £250.00. Total deposit £250.00. Total interest £10.00. Total APR 20.59%. All rates subject to status. When you open a Select 2-line account, you will receive a £100.00 cashback. Call 0500 222 666 for details. \*Offer extended until 31/01/99. Total payable £250.00. Total deposit £250.00. Total interest £10.00. Total APR 20.59%. All rates subject to status. When you open a Select 2-line account, you will receive a £100.00 cashback. Call 0500 222 666 for details. \*Offer extended until 31/01/99. Total payable £250.00. Total deposit £250.00. Total interest £10.00. Total APR 20.59%. All rates subject to status. When you open a Select 2-line account, you will receive a £100.00 cashback. Call 0500 222 666 for details. \*Offer extended until 31/01/99. Total payable £250.00. Total deposit £250.00. Total interest £10.00. Total APR 20.59%. All rates subject to status. When you open a Select 2-line account, you will receive a £100.00 cashback. Call 0500 222 666 for details. \*Offer extended until 31/01/99. Total payable £250.00. Total deposit £250.00. Total interest £10.00. Total APR 20.59%. All rates subject to status. When you open a Select 2-line account, you will receive a £100.00 cashback. Call 0500 222 666 for details. \*Offer extended until 31/01/99. Total payable £250.00. Total deposit £250.00. Total interest £10.00. Total APR 20.59%. All rates subject to status. When you open a Select 2-line account, you will receive a £100.00 cashback. Call 0500 222 666 for details. \*Offer extended until 31/01/99. Total payable £250.00. Total deposit £250.00. Total interest £10.00. Total APR 20.59%. All rates subject to status. When you open a Select 2-line account, you will receive a £100.00 cashback. Call 0500 222 666 for details. \*Offer extended until 31/01/99. Total payable £250.00. Total deposit £250.00. Total interest £10.00. Total APR 20.59%. All rates subject to status. When you open a Select 2-line account, you will receive a £100.00 cashback. Call 0500 222 666 for details. \*Offer extended until 31/01/99. Total payable £250.00. Total deposit £250.00. Total interest £10.00. Total APR 20.59%. All rates subject to status. When you open a Select 2-line account, you will receive a £100.00 cashback. Call 0500 222 666 for details. \*Offer extended until 31/01/99. Total payable £250.00. Total deposit £250.00. Total interest £10.00. Total APR 20.59%. All rates subject to status. When you open a Select 2-line account, you will receive a £100.00 cashback. Call 0500 222 666 for details. \*Offer extended until 31/01/99. Total payable £250.00. Total deposit £250.00. Total interest £10.00. Total APR 20.59%. All rates subject to status. When you open a Select 2-line account, you will receive a £100.00 cashback. Call 0500 222 666 for details. \*Offer extended until 31/01/99. Total payable £250.00. Total deposit £250.00. Total interest £10.00. Total APR 20.59%. All rates subject to status. When you open a Select 2-line account, you will receive a £100.00 cashback. Call 0500 222 666 for details. \*Offer extended until 31/01/99. Total payable £250.00. Total deposit £250.00. Total interest £10.00. Total APR 20.59%. All rates subject to status. When you open a Select 2-line account, you will receive a £100.00 cashback. Call 0500 222 666 for details. \*Offer extended until 31/01/99. Total payable £250.00. Total deposit £250.00. Total interest £10.00. Total APR 20.59%. All rates subject to status. When you open a Select 2-line account, you will receive a £100.00 cashback. Call 0500 222 666 for details. \*Offer extended until 31/01/99. Total payable £250.00. Total deposit £250.00. Total interest £10.00. Total APR 20.59%. All rates subject to status. When you open a Select 2-line account, you will receive a £100.00 cashback. Call 0500 222 666 for details. \*Offer extended until 31/01/99. Total payable £250.00. Total deposit £250.00. Total interest £10.00. Total APR 20.59%. All rates subject to status. When you open a Select 2-line account, you will receive a £100.00 cashback. Call 0500 222 666 for details. \*Offer extended until 31/01/99. Total payable £250.00. Total deposit £250.00. Total interest £10.00. Total APR 20.59%. All rates subject to status. When you open a Select 2-line account, you will receive a £100.00 cashback. Call 0500 222 666 for details. \*Offer extended until 31/01/99. Total payable £250.00. Total deposit £250.00. Total interest £10.00. Total APR 20.59%. All rates subject to status. When you open a Select 2-line account, you will receive a £100.00 cashback. Call 0500 222 666 for details. \*Offer extended until 31/01/99. Total payable £250.00. Total deposit £250.00. Total interest £10.00. Total APR 20.59%. All rates subject to status. When you open a Select 2-line account, you will receive a £100.00 cashback. Call 0500 222 666 for details. \*Offer extended until 31/01/99. Total payable £250.00. Total deposit £250.00. Total interest £10.00. Total APR 20.59%. All rates subject to status. When you open a Select 2-line account, you will receive a £100.00 cashback. Call 0500 222 666 for details. \*Offer extended until 31/01/99. Total payable £250.00. Total deposit £250.00. Total interest £10.00. Total APR 20.59%. All rates subject to status. When you open a Select 2-line account, you will receive a £100.00 cashback. Call 0500 222 666 for details. \*Offer extended until 31/01/99. Total payable £250.00. Total deposit £250.00. Total interest £10.00. Total APR 20.59%. All rates subject to status. When you open a Select 2-line account, you will receive a £100.00 cashback. Call 0500 222 666 for details. \*Offer extended until 31/01/99. Total payable £250.00. Total deposit £250.00. Total interest £10.00. Total APR 20.59%. All rates subject to status. When you open a Select 2-line account, you will receive a £100.00 cashback. Call 0500 222 666 for details. \*Offer extended until 31/01/99. Total payable £250.00. Total deposit £250.00. Total interest £10.00. Total APR 20.59%. All rates subject to status. When you open a Select 2-line account, you will receive a £100.00 cashback. Call 0500 222 666 for details. \*Offer extended until 31/01/99. Total payable £250.00. Total deposit £250.00. Total interest £10.00. Total APR 20.59%. All rates subject to status. When you open a Select 2-line account, you will receive a £100.00 cashback. Call 0500 222 666 for details. \*Offer extended until 31/01/99. Total payable £250.00. Total deposit £250.00. Total interest £10.00. Total APR 20.59%. All rates subject to status. When you open a Select 2-line account, you will receive a £100.00 cashback. Call 0500 222 666 for details. \*Offer extended until 31/01/99. Total payable £250.0

# Pakistan locked into a tragic cycle of violence

IT IS more an eyesore than a school. In this ostentatious middle-class suburb of Islamabad, where the concrete villas are clad in fancy tiles, sits a huddle of half-finished structures separated by a stretch of mud.

There is a mosque of rude cement, a hovel of whitewashed brick. In the dormitory two small children doze under quilts. In the crude, pitch-dark kitchen, older boys squat in the dirt to prepare the lantern curry that will end the day's fast.

This primitive school represents the most pressing problem for Pakistan's Prime Minister, Nawaz Sharif. It is an Islamic fundamentalist school, and there are 25,000 like it across the country. It is poverty-stricken, because this and previous governments have done everything they could to cut its sources of funding.

Its headteacher, in long black robes and with a sweeping beard, disavows any involvement in politics; but he is an active member of an extreme Islamist party, the Jamiat Ulema Islam. And it is the country's boys graduating from

BY ANWAR IQBAL AND  
PETER POPEHAM  
in Islamabad

schools like these who go on to become the footsoldiers of Afghanistan's Taliban and their ultra-violent equivalents in Pakistan, notably the Sipah Sahaba.

Pakistan - the group held responsible for shooting 18 Shia

Muslims dead in a mosque in central Pakistan last week. But these are not normal times. When Mr Sharif ordered Pakistan's nuclear tests in May, he set a clock ticking towards economic disaster. This was clearly understood at the time, because of the predictable effects of sanctions and the low level of foreign reserves. But he went ahead with the tests.

He then pushed the hands of the clock further towards midnight when he initiated aggressive action against Hudco, a London-based power company which owns and runs the biggest private power plant in the country. Claiming that the company was guilty of corruption in its dealings with the government of his predecessor, Benazir Bhutto, he raided its offices and had arrest warrants issued for its executives. A better way of scaring off foreign investors is hard to imagine.

Foreign business continues to fight shy of the country, and one compelling reason is law and order. Moeen Qureshi, a former caretaker prime minister now in business in Washington DC, said this was a "very serious" situation. "How many factories are seen by some as a sign that

Karachi stay in operation for the whole month? You will find all of them remain closed for one-third of the time [due to large-scale extortion]... the problem is spreading in the interior of the country as well."

It was in October that Mr Sharif first indicated his determination to tackle the problem when he severed his party's ties with its ally Mohajir Qaumi Movement, which is both the dominant political party in Karachi and the city's main terrorist organisation. He clamped martial law on the city, and set up special military courts to try those accused of terrorist crimes. The first two men to be sentenced to death by the courts were hanged last week.

The approach was draconian, but many believe it was long overdue. Mr Sharif's harsh action may be a first step towards restoring government control.

But last week's atrocities - the massacre in the mosque and the bridge bomb two days earlier that was believed to be an assassination attempt on Mr Sharif but killed four others - failed to materialise.



A young scavenger running past burning tyres in Islamabad yesterday during Shia protests against last week's mosque massacre on Pakistan Muammar Riaz

## IN BRIEF

### UN moves to calm Sierra Leone

UNITED NATIONS officials flew to Sierra Leone yesterday and offered to mediate between the government and rebels seeking the release of one of their leaders. But Ben Bockarie, a commander of the two-day-old rebellion, rejected the offer and threatened a new offensive.

### US may seek Pinochet trial

THE UNITED STATES confirmed that it is considering whether the former Chilean dictator, Augusto Pinochet, can be tried there for a 1976 car bombing in Washington that killed one of his opponents, Orlando Letelier. Spanish prosecutors want to extradite the 83-year-old general from Britain.

### Commission admits gun ownership

THE EUROPEAN Commission yesterday said its security staff hold five high-powered rifles - contradicting earlier denials of the allegation. A spokeswoman said: "They were bought at a time when there was a terrorist threat."

### Prison mutiny leaves 13 dead

A PRISON mutiny in a former Soviet labour camp left 13 people dead after Azerbaijani forces ended a riot. At least two men died in the revolt, at Gobustan, 40 miles from the capital, Baku. They had been jailed for their part in a coup attempt against President Gaidar Aliyev.

### Serb police shot dead in Kosovo

THREE SERBIAN police officers were killed and three civilians wounded in Kosovo yesterday but the cause was unclear. A spokesman for the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe said the victims were caught in crossfire in Siva Reka, 25 miles southwest of Pristina.

### Anwar Ibrahim turns the tables

THE FORMER Malaysian deputy prime minister Anwar Ibrahim, who is in court facing sex and corruption charges, has turned the tables on his accusers by issuing a writ for compensation against the police who arrested him.

# BRILLIANT IN STORE NOW VALUE

**BUY 2 PACKS OF THESE DURACELL BATTERIES AND GET THE 3RD PACK FREE**

**DURACELL AA Batteries Pack of 12**  
Was £7.49 £5.99 per pack  
3 PACKS FOR ONLY £11.98

**SAVE £31**

**Stewart 4 Panel Folding Shower Screen with White Frame Toughened Safety Glass Panels (BS 6206 Grade A)**  
Was £89.99 £58.99

**SAVE £65**

**Gainsborough Energy 2000X 9.5kW Electric Shower**  
Was £149.99 £84.99

**Colonial 6 Panel Knotty Pine Interior Door 78" x 30"**  
Was £18.70 £8.99

**Roll 'n' Store with Lid**  
Was £9.99 £8.99

**Zag Mobile Contractor's Tool Chest 33001**  
Includes 4 pull up hooks for carrying loads, telescopic handle with cable holder, 2 organisers and a bit holder. Can be used as a saw bench. With 6 year guarantee.  
£36.99

**Pine Deck Rail Pack of 4, 20 x 45 x 2.4m.**  
Was £99.99 £8.99

**Kärcher 210 Pressure Washer High pressure hose with lance and trigger gun.**  
Was £89.99 £89.99

**100mm Workshop Vice**  
Was £24.99 £9.99

**B&Q Precision Deep Cut Mitre Saw**  
Was £17.99 £15.99

**Sheldon Suite**  
Suite comprises white acrylic bath with front panel, 2 tap hole basin with panel, close-coupled white pan, cistern and fittings, white toilet seat and gold effect bath and basin taps including wastes.  
HURRY WHILE STOCKS LAST  
ONLY £239

**"This 5 litre tub of B&Q emulsion is Brilliant Value."**

NIKI MALIK  
Department Manager  
B&Q ALPERTON



**B&Q Value Matt or Silk Emulsion**  
Pure brilliant white. 5 litres.

Was £6.99  
£5.99 each

**WE WILL NOT BE BEATEN ON PRICE**

Ask in-store for details of our Price Promise



1998 silver A3, 20,000 miles, alloys  
**FOUND**  
by the Audi Used Car Locator  
0345 699777



EARN TESCO CLUBCARD POINTS AT B&Q  
Ask in-store for details.  
Does not apply in B&Q Warehouses or B&Q Depots.



Monday-Saturday: Most stores 8am-8pm. Sunday: Most stores England & Wales 10am-4pm (where permitted). Scotland 9am-6pm & Northern Ireland 10am-4pm. Certain store hours may vary, please phone your nearest store to confirm.  
THE UK'S BIGGEST D.I.Y. CHAIN - FOR YOUR NEAREST STORE PHONE 0181 466 4166  
Internet - <http://www.diy.co.uk>

Offer valid at B&Q Warehouses and B&Q Depots. Please ask in-store for details of our Price Promise. Offers shown are open ended. Ask in-store for details of all offers. Offers subject to credit availability and while stocks last and some products may only be stocked in selected stores, please phone in-store for details. Price and point available on selected items. First point available on selected items. The customer is to pay the motorist and can display it on their car. All guarantees are subject to terms and conditions. Tools and accessories for tool chest are not included. \*B&Q FSC ID Code 2040000 FSC Grade mark 6 10% Forest Stewardship Council.

لهم اذْعُنْ لِي



Business & City Editor, Jeremy Warner  
News desk: 0171-293 2636 Fax: 0171-293 2098  
E-mail: [IndyBusiness@Independent.co.uk](mailto:IndyBusiness@Independent.co.uk)

# BUSINESS

## BRIEFING

### Insider dealing probe at UBS

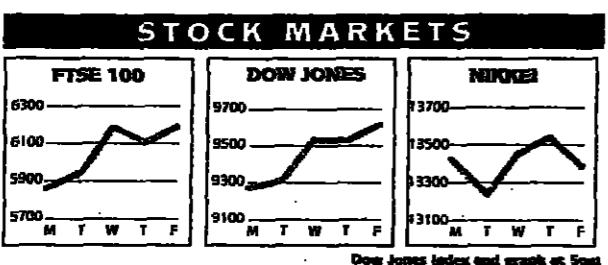
THE WORLD'S largest bank, UBS, faces fresh embarrassment after it emerged that the Zurich authorities are investigating alleged insider dealing before of the merger between Union Bank of Switzerland and Swiss Bank Corporation senior executives just over a year ago. Spokesmen for the bank said yesterday that it would be "happy to provide any information" to the authorities. The bank was hit in October after the chairman, Mathis Caballavetta, quit in the wake of the revelations of heavy losses as a result of the problems at Long-Term Capital Management, the US hedge fund that was bailed out in late September.

### Thames names new chairman

ROGER CARR (left), the chief executive of the fire and security products group Williams Holdings, is to become the next chairman of Thames Water. Mr Carr, 52, will succeed Sir Robert Clarke who is retiring in March aged 70. Thames said Mr Carr, who has been a director of the company since 1984, was being appointed to the chairmanship in a non-executive capacity but declined to give details of his salary or how many days a week he would put in.

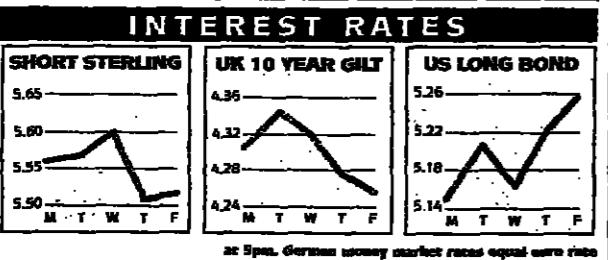
### ENIC confirms bid for Wembley

ENIC, the investment group, yesterday confirmed that it had made an approach to buy Wembley, the group which owns the stadium. ENIC said it had made an indicative offer of 412.5p per Wembley share, of which 200p was in cash and the remainder in ENIC shares. Although the offer was rejected by Wembley's board, the group's three non-executive directors have written to ENIC saying they would recommend the offer to shareholders. Wembley Stadium is on the verge of being sold to a national trust which will redevelop it with the help of funding from the National Lottery.



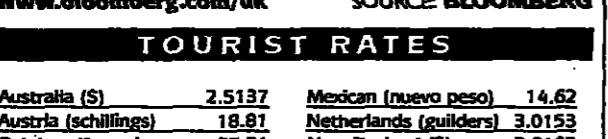
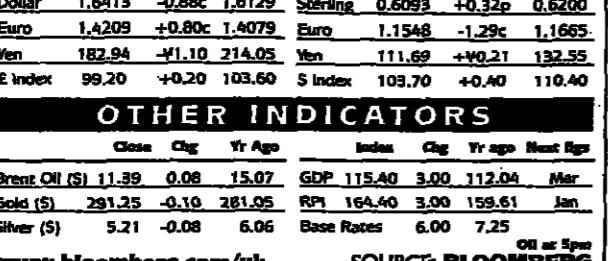
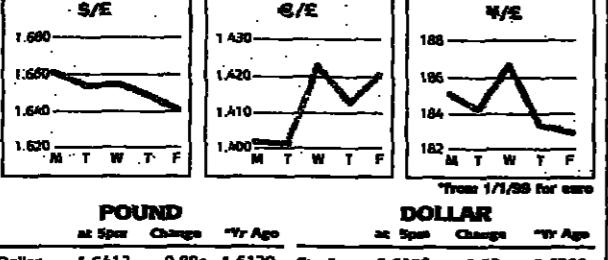
INDICES

Index	Close	Change	Chg %	52 wk. High	52 wk. Low	Yield (%)
FTSE 100	6147.20	+6.00	0.75	6183.70	4599.20	2.63
FTSE 250	4976.40	+29.70	0.60	5970.90	4247.60	3.36
FTSE 350	2888.70	+20.90	0.73	2969.10	2210.40	2.78
FTSE All Share	2784.60	+20.11	0.73	2885.52	2143.53	2.78
FTSE SmallCap	2133.80	+14.20	0.67	2793.80	1834.40	3.79
FTSE Fleeting	1177.80	+7.60	0.65	1517.10	1046.20	4.27
FTSE AIM	806.90	+1.40	0.17	1146.90	761.30	1.25
FTSE Eurotop 100	2909.02	+14.75	0.51	3079.27	2018.15	8.89
FTSE Eurotop 300	1253.32	+6.93	0.56	1332.07	880.63	0.99
Dow Jones	9617.83	+79.30	0.83	9562.22	7400.30	1.59
Nikkei	13391.81	-144.75	-1.07	17352.95	12787.90	1.08
Hang Seng	10722.70	+29.13	0.27	11926.15	6544.79	3.23
Dax	5392.84	-69.63	-1.31	6217.83	3893.71	1.52
S&P 500	1271.95	+2.17	0.17	1272.50	912.83	1.24
Nasdaq	2353.82	+27.73	1.19	2333.70	1357.09	0.39
Toronto 300	6678.00	+77.51	1.14	7837.70	5320.90	1.58
Brazil Bovespa	7005.42	+52.05	0.75	12339.14	4575.69	8.48
Belgium Bel20	3573.96	-34.90	-0.97	3713.21	2357.78	1.62
Amsterdam Ach	559.27	-1.81	-0.32	600.65	366.58	1.76
France CAC 40	4245.42	+14.75	0.35	4404.94	2809.73	1.90
Milan MIB30	37570.00	-127.00	-0.34	39170.00	24175.00	1.08
Madrid Ibex 35	10412.30	-31.10	-0.30	10898.80	6869.90	1.77
Irish Overall	5276.39	-8.80	-0.17	5581.70	3732.57	1.37
S. Korea Comx	626.33	-11.26	-1.77	638.41	277.37	0.97
Australia ASX	2856.30	-41.00	-1.42	2902.90	2396.70	3.12

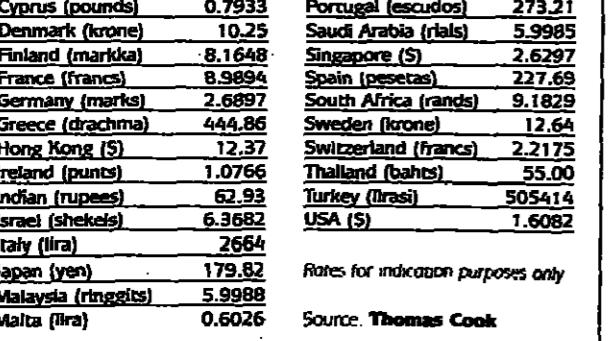


MONEY MARKET RATES

Index	3 month	Yr. chg	10 year	Yr. chg	Long bond	Yr. chg
UK	5.95	-1.61	5.46	-2.12	4.26	-1.78
US	5.04	-0.65	5.09	-0.66	4.85	-
Japan	0.54	-0.23	0.56	-0.18	2.00	0.12
Germany	3.20	-0.41	3.14	-0.79	3.73	-1.40



[www.bloomberg.com/vk](http://www.bloomberg.com/vk) SOURCE: BLOOMBERG



Rates for indication purposes only

Source: Thomas Cook

## Marston turns tables with £330m Wolves bid

BY PETER THAL LARSEN

THE BID BATTLE for Marston Thompson & Evershed took an unprecedented twist yesterday when the regional brewer turned on Wolverhampton & Dudley, its hostile suitor by launching a £330m counter-bid.

Marston's move is believed to be the first time that a UK company has attempted the so-called "Pac-Man defence", where a firm on the receiving end of an unwanted bid attempts to swallow its predator.

Marston is offering two of its shares and 24p in cash for each Wolverhampton share. At the same time, it proposes to pay its own shareholders a special dividend of 12.5p per share. The offer counters Wolverhampton's cash-and-shares bid for Marston, which was launched at the end of November.

However, Wolverhampton immediately rejected the bid. David Miller, the chairman, said: "Marston's clearly have no de-

bence to our logical proposal for industry consolidation and have therefore chosen to embark on an expensive and flawed counter-attack aimed at distracting their own shareholders from the merits of our bid."

Marston, best known for its Pedigree bitter and its Pitcher & Piano pub chain, said it would fund the bid by selling 1.150 million pds to raise about £250m.

It will close Wolverhampton's breweries in Wolverhampton and Hartlepool, shifting some production to its own brewery in Burton-upon-Trent. At the same time Marston has negotiated a deal with Bass, the brewing giant, to take over the production of Banks's, Wolverhampton's best-selling bitter.

Marston said the combined

brewing industry and yield an annual cost savings of £21m.

Nick Letts, the chief executive, said: "We believe there is a compelling commercial logic to this offer while more cash will be returned to the combined shareholder group." Under the terms of the deal, Wolverhampton shareholders will hold 55 per

cent of the share capital of the enlarged group with Marston shareholders owning the remaining 45 per cent.

Amid frantic trading, Wolverhampton shares yesterday jumped 72.5p to 510p, while Marston's shares were up 4p at 302.5p. At yesterday's closing

prices the respective bids val-

ued each Wolverhampton share at 851p and each Marston share at 302p, but brokers pointed out that these values were artificially inflated.

Marston's unprecedented

move caused confusion in the City. It is understood the Stock Exchange initially refused to release the announcement, believing that Marston's and Wolverhampton's names had been swapped over by accident on the announcement.

Institutional investors, many

of whom own shares in both

companies, gave Marston's move a cautious welcome. "We are not unhappy with Marston's move," one said. "Of course we would have preferred an agreed deal, but they have been trying to do that for two and a half years."

Nigel Popham, an analyst at

Teather & Greenwood, said: "Obviously Wolves is not going to do this lying down. But they will now have to offer a lot more – probably around 380p a share."

# Pac-Man defence finally takes the stage

ACCORDING TO the records, the Pac-Man defence has never been tried before, in Britain at least. Named after a once famous and now ancient computer game, the idea of which was to turn round and gobble up the little monster that was chasing your little monster, plenty have talked about using it as a way of seeing off an unwanted takeover bid, but nobody has actually attempted it, less still pulled it off.

Judging by Marston Thompson & Everard's £230m bid for Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries, you can see why. The Stock Exchange was so astonished by the announcement that it felt obliged to check this wasn't a mistake or a hoax before posting it on the screen. Wolverhampton & Dudley had been bidding for Marston in a mixture of shares and cash. Now Marston is bidding for Wolves, also in shares and cash.

That caused Wolverhampton's shares to climb sharply on the stock market yesterday, greatly enhancing the value of its offer for Marston, which in turn enhances



JEREMY  
WARNER

*The choice is between two underperformers that have consistently matched each other in disappointment*

the value of its offer for Wolves. In these circumstances, it becomes very hard to see what fair value for the combined group is, or indeed how it should be split between the two sides.

Harder still for investors is to judge between the two alternative strategies, for neither company

has exactly covered itself in glory in recent years. The choice is between two underperformers that have consistently matched each other in disappointment for disappointment.

The Marston strategy does at least have a certain vindictive style about it. If successful, Marston will lay waste to its attacker's territory, sacking its management and many of its employees, closing many of its pubs. Most insulting of all, it plans to contract out the brewing of Wolves' best selling Banks's bitter and mild to Bass. Sweet revenge indeed.

Unfortunately, it is not clear that any of this will do much for investors, many of whom are shareholders in both companies. On the other hand it certainly ratchets up the investment banking and legal fees. Both sides can now presumably charge for a bid as well as a defence. What a racket.

PERHAPS IT IS the launch of the euro that of the the promise of ever cheaper money, but this latest cut

in interest rates has, as never before, had many of us scurrying away to our filing cabinets to check up on our mortgage and savings accounts. All too often, the result has proved a disturbing one. What looked like such a great deal when we signed up all that time ago now turns out to be a real stinker. What's more, it is going to cost us an arm and a leg to chuck it in and sign up with something more modern and user-friendly.

For instance, a colleague finds himself locked into a fixed-rate mortgage which has come to cost more than the better variable... he faces big redemption penalties if he tries to shift. Meanwhile, my wife has discovered that the Cheltenham & Gloucester 90-day notice account which she opened for a small inheritance a few years ago, now pays less than the same organisation's instant access account. To disentangle herself, she has to give three months' notice or again face a very hefty withdrawal penalty.

In many cases, however, it is merely inertia which makes us stay with what has plainly become a disadvantageous product. It is often said that it is more common to get divorced than shift your bank account; the same is largely true of savings and borrowings. Once signed up, we generally can't be bothered, or lack the time, to change.

Traditionally, the financial ser-

vice industry has relied on this inertia, misplaced loyalty, call it what you will; it's one of the reasons our banks, building societies and life assurance companies manage to remain both inefficient and highly profitable at the same time.

But things are changing. New low-cost competitors are transforming the landscape, both for savings and mortgages, and suddenly it seems possible to get genuine value for money. The industry may not be able to rely on inertia for much longer.

The launch of the euro has added fresh impetus to the search for value, and that's possibly what's concentrating minds so much right now. Unprecedented numbers are expected to change their mort-

gage and savings providers over the next year. As it happens, the euro's promise of very cheap mortgage deals is something of an illusion. According to John Charcol, the independent mortgage adviser, it is hard to get a mortgage rate on the Continent of much better than 5 per cent, despite the fact that the Eurozone base rate is only 3 per cent.

If our own financial services industry leaves something to be desired, plainly the Continental one has got a very long way to go, for in Britain it is now possible to get a variable rate mortgage at very close to base rate.

In any case, if you are prepared

to factor currency risk into your mortgage payments, it would make more sense to take out a loan in Japan, where the base rate is just a quarter of a percentage point. Don't forget, however, that the so-called 'yen carry trade' - that is borrowing cheap in Japan to lend more expensively in the US and the UK - nearly toppled some of the world's biggest hedge funds last autumn. Currency speculation is best left to the professionals.

All the same, the outlook for borrowers has rarely looked so good. Standard Life Bank, a new entrant to the mortgage market, is offering a flexible variable rate mortgage at just 5.5 per cent with a discount of 2 per cent for the first six months. By the time that discount lapses, the variable rate is bound to be much lower. Savers fare less well in this downward spiral in interest rates, but you can't have everything, can you?

## Footsie touches new record as Wall St rallies

THE FTSE 100 raced ahead to touch a new record of 6,195.6, but later fell back to close at 6,147.2, up 46.0 on the day. The market was powered by a rally on Wall Street and excitement caused by renewed talk of mega-deals. The index of leading shares raced up to 6,184 in early trade, dropped back and then climbed again to hit its new high just after 2pm. But it failed to cling on.

The exuberant mood was sustained by rumours of a bid for Cable & Wireless by Deutsche Telekom. C&W stock initially leapt 85p in heavy volume and later closed at 883.5, up 9.2 per cent. Talk was that BT Alex Brown had been hired to offer Cable & Wireless to potential buyers at 1,050p per share. An emphatic denial by C&W did little to dampen enthusiasm.

The telecoms sector has already caught takeover fever in the wake of the bid battle for AirTouch, the US mobile operator, and unexpectedly good Christmas sales figures.

TOREX, the medical software systems specialist, rose 17 per cent as traders awoke to the fact it looks relatively recession-proof.

While many companies sell IT stocks to companies in cyclical sectors, Torex's customer base is relatively robust. A strong "buy" note from the house broker, Beeson Gregory, also helped the shares to end up 15.5p at 103.5p.

The fever was infectious yesterday and temperatures rose at Orange, where shares jumped more than 5.5 per cent to hit 945p by the close. Orange's share price is now 100p higher than it was during the go-go days of July last year.

As of last night it was outperforming the All-Share by 300 per cent. Telewest also caught the bug, rising 5.4 per cent to close at 216p.

Turnover was heavy. SEAG said more than 1 billion shares had been traded by the 4.30pm close. Following Wednesday's party and Thursday's hangover, traders were relieved to see Wall Street rallying overnight. The rally continued when Wall Street opened at 2.30pm, albeit in a more temperate way. The Dow was up 48 points at 9,685 by 4pm.

Mid and small-cap stocks predictably saw less of the action, with the FTSE 250 closing up 29.7 at 4976.4. The FTSE

### MARKET REPORT



ANDREW  
VERITY

Small Cap index settled up 14.2 at 2133.8.

Brewers joined in the rally as Marston, Thompson and Everard launched its audacious takeover bid for Wolverhampton & Dudley. But the uncertainty over the outcome of this battle sowed some caution among traders. At 5.30pm, the Marston bid would



Dawn Primarolo said the Government would outline proposals on tax incentives, along with other measures

was a cause of optimism. Compass and Granada, both of which have secured big Millennium-related contracts, jumped 8.5 and 6 per cent respectively.

The party-poopers were few, but Reckitt & Colman, the household goods and textiles group, was not coming out to play. Credit Suisse First Boston slashed its forecasts over the next two years, causing Reckitt to tumble 34.5p to 720p by the close. Tomkins, the buns-to-gummi conglomerate, was another wallflower. Shareholders are nervous ahead of the group's results next week and analysts are known to be pressing for the group to sell its business units and concentrate on autoparts.

RMC group, the cement manufacturer, came crashing down as investors digested a profits warning. RMC said its business had been battered by a slump in demand for construction materials in Germany and Israel that would take a heavy toll on full-year

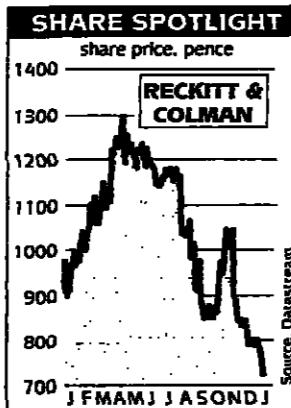
REXAM, the packaging group, made courageous attempts to extract itself from the despondency surrounding the sector, which suffers from a big overcapacity problem.

After meeting more than 20 institutions, Rolf Borjesson, chief executive, put his money where his mouth was by buying 50,000 shares. The stock rose 16p to close at 182p yesterday.

Shares in retailers headed in different directions as the market tried to guess the outcome of some crucial trading statements happening next week.

Kingfisher, in particular, must be wondering where Santa Claus went. The stock slid 26p to 668p on rumours that a trading statement next week would be gloomy. But the owner of Woolworths, B&Q, Comet and Superdrug is not as vulnerable as some think, according to Verdict, the respected UK retail consultancy. The stock may be oversold.

By contrast, Dixons, a direct competitor of Comet's, rose 2.5 per cent after Schroders reiterated its "add" recommendation. Other retailers, including Somerfield (up 12p to 458.5p), rose ahead of the market.



Source: Datastream

profits. Analysts are now predicting current-year profits of £265m at the most - at least £20m less than expected. The shares fell 50p to 639p.

Shares in retailers headed in different directions as the market tried to guess the outcome of some crucial trading statements happening next week.

Kingfisher, in particular, must be wondering where Santa Claus went. The stock slid 26p to 668p on rumours that a trading statement next week would be gloomy. But the owner of Woolworths, B&Q, Comet and Superdrug is not as vulnerable as some think, according to Verdict, the respected UK retail consultancy. The stock may be oversold.

By contrast, Dixons, a direct

### IN BRIEF

#### New mortgage offer takes £175m

STANDARD LIFE Bank, the banking subsidiary of Standard Life insurance company, is set to take up to 10 per cent of the new mortgage market this year after taking 14,000 inquiries for its new cut-rate Freestyle mortgage offer, and lending £175m in the first five days after opening this week. It has also cut its mortgage rate from 6.8 to 6.55 per cent from Monday. New borrowers also get a 2 per cent discount for the first six months.

#### Allied Domecq

ALLIED DOMECQ is to sell off its Irish drinks business in a multi-million management buyout deal to be paid in euros. Cantrell & Cochrane, which makes and distributes Bulmers cider and Ballygowan water, is being sold to venture capital business BC Partners for 766m euros (£252m). The sale comes just seven months after Allied secured complete ownership of the Irish company by buying out Diageo's 49 per cent stake, which analysts then valued at around 223m.

#### Oil jobs axed

BP AMOCO is cutting 900 jobs in England and Scotland, about 1 per cent of its worldwide workforce, the newly formed Anglo-American giant said. The bulk of the cuts come from onshore exploration and production staff being reduced by about 500 in London and up to 200 in Aberdeen. Further worldwide job losses were expected.

weather, the rise in the non-farm payrolls total was well above analysts' expectations.

The news, following strong reports on the post-Christmas sales and the housing market earlier in the week, dimmed any remaining hopes for a further interest rate cut.

## Buoyant US economy boosts shares

THE US economy defied all expectations of a steady slowdown when key figures yesterday revealed a staggering jump of 378,000 in the number of new jobs last month, writes Diane Coyle. The unemployment rate dipped back to its 30-year low of 4.3 per cent.

The surprising buoyancy helped share prices climb further. By mid-morning the Dow Jones index was up nearly 55 points at 9,592.35. The dollar gained against the euro and the yen. It reversed a dip below 110 yen on Thursday to climb above 112 yen.

## Labour plans tax breaks for R&D

BY MICHAEL HARRISON

challenge using all the levers at

its disposal, including the tax system," Ms Primarolo said.

"But to do so effectively, it needs the help of business to inform the debate and design effective policies."

Speaking at a productivity roadshow at the Nissan car plant in Sunderland, she said the Government would outline specific proposals to make existing tax incentives more user-friendly, along with new tax measures to stimulate R&D in small and medium-sized firms and encourage big firms to invest in smaller enterprises.

The package of measures is part of the Government's drive to close the 30 per cent productivity gap between British industry and its German, American and French rivals.

The Government has shown its determination to tackle the UK's productivity

to raise productivity include a review of the banking sector, plans to widen employee share ownership and simplification of the tax treatment of intellectual property.

The Nissan site was chosen for the fourth in a series of joint Treasury/Department of Trade and Industry productivity roadshows because it is the most efficient car plant in Europe, producing three times as many vehicles per man as Rover's Longbridge plant.

The Chancellor, Gordon Brown, signalled in his pre-Budget report that closing the productivity gap would be one of the Government's top priorities. He cited it as a fundamental long-term weakness of the British economy. Work carried out by the management consultants McKinsey shows that UK productivity lags the US by 40 per cent and Germany by at least 20 per cent.



### TWO FOR ONE WEEKDAYS

Valid weekdays only (all Boat Show weekdays exclude weekends and press preview day i.e. valid for the use on the 8th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, and 15th January 1999).

Buy one adult ticket at normal admission price of £10.50 and a second person can enter for free on presentation of this voucher (printed in The Independent).

To take advantage of this offer simply fill out this voucher and present it at the Earls Court Ticket Offices.

Terms and Conditions:  
1) Each adult entry also admits two children under 16 for free. 2) Not to be used in conjunction with any other offer. 3) No photocopies accepted.

#### VOUCHER

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Day time Telephone number \_\_\_\_\_

8-17 JANUARY 99

LONDON BOAT SHOW

TWO FOR ONE WEEKDAYS

THE INDEPENDENT

PROUD SPONSOR OF THE BIG BLUE EXPERIENCE

AT THE LONDON BOAT SHOW

BOAT SHOW INFORMATION CALL 0800 100 556



This information is listed by sector, not by company, in order to allow investors to define the investment.

For full performance details of each company, click here.

Top five performing funds of each sector are highlighted in bold. All funds are more than one year old. Fund sizes taken on the first day of the year. Fund performances are calculated on an Offer to Sale basis with net income restated as at date and illustrate the value of

24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49  
50  
51  
52  
53  
54  
55  
56  
57  
58  
59  
60  
61  
62  
63  
64  
65  
66  
67  
68  
69  
70  
71  
72  
73  
74  
75  
76  
77  
78  
79  
80  
81  
82  
83  
84  
85  
86  
87  
88  
89  
90  
91  
92  
93  
94  
95  
96  
97  
98  
99  
100  
101  
102  
103  
104  
105  
106  
107  
108  
109  
110  
111  
112  
113  
114  
115  
116  
117  
118  
119  
120  
121  
122  
123  
124  
125  
126  
127  
128  
129  
130  
131  
132  
133  
134  
135  
136  
137  
138  
139  
140  
141  
142  
143  
144  
145  
146  
147  
148  
149  
150  
151  
152  
153  
154  
155  
156  
157  
158  
159  
160  
161  
162  
163  
164  
165  
166  
167  
168  
169  
170  
171  
172  
173  
174  
175  
176  
177  
178  
179  
180  
181  
182  
183  
184  
185  
186  
187  
188  
189  
190  
191  
192  
193  
194  
195  
196  
197  
198  
199  
200  
201  
202  
203  
204  
205  
206  
207  
208  
209  
210  
211  
212  
213  
214  
215  
216  
217  
218  
219  
220  
221  
222  
223  
224  
225  
226  
227  
228  
229  
230  
231  
232  
233  
234  
235  
236  
237  
238  
239  
240  
241  
242  
243  
244  
245  
246  
247  
248  
249  
250  
251  
252  
253  
254  
255  
256  
257  
258  
259  
259  
260  
261  
262  
263  
264  
265  
266  
267  
268  
269  
270  
271  
272  
273  
274  
275  
276  
277  
278  
279  
280  
281  
282  
283  
284  
285  
286  
287  
288  
289  
289  
290  
291  
292  
293  
294  
295  
296  
297  
298  
299  
300  
301  
302  
303  
304  
305  
306  
307  
308  
309  
309  
310  
311  
312  
313  
314  
315  
316  
317  
318  
319  
319  
320  
321  
322  
323  
324  
325  
326  
327  
328  
329  
329  
330  
331  
332  
333  
334  
335  
336  
337  
338  
339  
339  
340  
341  
342  
343  
344  
345  
346  
347  
348  
349  
349  
350  
351  
352  
353  
354  
355  
356  
357  
358  
359  
359  
360  
361  
362  
363  
364  
365  
366  
367  
368  
369  
369  
370  
371  
372  
373  
374  
375  
376  
377  
378  
379  
379  
380  
381  
382  
383  
384  
385  
386  
387  
388  
389  
389  
390  
391  
392  
393  
394  
395  
396  
397  
398  
399  
400  
401  
402  
403  
404  
405  
406  
407  
408  
409  
409  
410  
411  
412  
413  
414  
415  
416  
417  
418  
419  
419  
420  
421  
422  
423  
424  
425  
426  
427  
428  
429  
429  
430  
431  
432  
433  
434  
435  
436  
437  
438  
439  
439  
440  
441  
442  
443  
444  
445  
446  
447  
448  
449  
449  
450  
451  
452  
453  
454  
455  
456  
457  
458  
459  
459  
460  
461  
462  
463  
464  
465  
466  
467  
468  
469  
469  
470  
471  
472  
473  
474  
475  
476  
477  
478  
479  
479  
480  
481  
482  
483  
484  
485  
486  
487  
488  
489  
489  
490  
491  
492  
493  
494  
495  
496  
497  
498  
499  
500  
501  
502  
503  
504  
505  
506  
507  
508  
509  
509  
510  
511  
512  
513  
514  
515  
516  
517  
518  
519  
519  
520  
521  
522  
523  
524  
525  
526  
527  
528  
529  
529  
530  
531  
532  
533  
534  
535  
536  
537  
538  
539  
539  
540  
541  
542  
543  
544  
545  
546  
547  
548  
549  
549  
550  
551  
552  
553  
554  
555  
556  
557  
558  
559  
559  
560  
561  
562  
563  
564  
565  
566  
567  
568  
569  
569  
570  
571  
572  
573  
574  
575  
576  
577  
578  
579  
579  
580  
581  
582  
583  
584  
585  
586  
587  
588  
589  
589  
590  
591  
592  
593  
594  
595  
596  
597  
598  
599  
600  
601  
602  
603  
604  
605  
606  
607  
608  
609  
609  
610  
611  
612  
613  
614  
615  
616  
617  
618  
619  
619  
620  
621  
622  
623  
624  
625  
626  
627  
628  
629  
629  
630  
631  
632  
633  
634  
635  
636  
637  
638  
639  
639  
640  
641  
642  
643  
644  
645  
646  
647  
648  
649  
649  
650  
651  
652  
653  
654  
655  
656  
657  
658  
659  
659  
660  
661  
662  
663  
664  
665  
666  
667  
668  
669  
669  
670  
671  
672  
673  
674  
675  
676  
677  
678  
679  
679  
680  
681  
682  
683  
684  
685  
686  
687  
688  
689  
689  
690  
691  
692  
693  
694  
695  
696  
697  
698  
699  
700  
701  
702  
703  
704  
705  
706  
707  
708  
709  
709  
710  
711  
712  
713  
714  
715  
716  
717  
718  
719  
719  
720  
721  
722  
723  
724  
725  
726  
727  
728  
729  
729  
730  
731  
732  
733  
734  
735  
736  
737  
738  
739  
739  
740  
741  
742  
743  
744  
745  
746  
747  
748  
749  
749  
750  
751  
752  
753  
754  
755  
756  
757  
758  
759  
759  
760  
761  
762  
763  
764  
765  
766  
767  
768  
769  
769  
770  
771  
772  
773  
774  
775  
776  
777  
778  
779  
779  
780  
781  
782  
783  
784  
785  
786  
787  
788  
789  
789  
790  
791  
792  
793  
794  
795  
796  
797  
798  
799  
800  
801  
802  
803  
804  
805  
806  
807  
808  
809  
809  
810  
811  
812  
813  
814  
815  
816  
817  
818  
819  
819  
820  
821  
822  
823  
824  
825  
826  
827  
828  
829  
829  
830  
831  
832  
833  
834  
835  
836  
837  
838  
839  
839  
840  
841  
842  
843  
844  
845  
846  
847  
848  
849  
849  
850  
851  
852  
853  
854  
855  
856  
857  
858  
859  
859  
860  
861  
862  
863  
864  
865  
866  
867  
868  
869  
869  
870  
871  
872  
873  
874  
875  
876  
877  
878  
879  
879  
880  
881  
882  
883  
884  
885  
886  
887  
888  
889  
889  
890  
891  
892  
893  
894  
895  
896  
897  
898  
899  
900  
901  
902  
903  
904  
905  
906  
907  
908  
909  
909  
910  
911  
912  
913  
914  
915  
916  
917  
918  
919  
919  
920  
921  
922  
923  
924  
925  
926  
927  
928  
929  
929  
930  
931  
932  
933  
934  
935  
936  
937  
938  
939  
939  
940  
941  
942  
943  
944  
945  
946  
947  
948  
949  
949  
950  
951  
952  
953  
954  
955  
956  
957  
958  
959  
959  
960  
961  
962  
963  
964  
965  
966  
967  
968  
969  
969  
970  
971  
972  
973  
974  
975  
976  
977  
978  
979  
979  
980  
981  
982  
983  
984  
985  
986  
987  
988  
989  
989  
990  
991  
992  
993  
994  
995  
996  
997  
998  
999  
1000  
1001  
1002  
1003  
1004  
1005  
1006  
1007  
1008  
1009  
1009  
1010  
1011  
1012  
1013  
1014  
1015  
1016  
1017  
1018  
1019  
1019  
1020  
1021  
1022  
1023  
1024  
1025  
1026  
1027  
1028  
1029  
1029  
1030  
1031  
1032  
1033  
1034  
1035  
1036  
1037  
1038  
1039  
1039  
1040  
1041  
1042  
1043  
1044  
1045  
1046  
1047  
1048  
1049  
1049  
1050  
1051  
1052  
1053  
1054  
1055  
1056  
1057  
1058  
1059  
1059  
1060  
1061  
1062  
1063  
1064  
1065  
1066  
1067  
1068  
1069  
1069  
1070  
1071  
1072  
1073  
1074  
1075  
1076  
1077  
1078  
1079  
1079  
1080  
1081  
1082  
1083  
1084  
1085  
1086  
1087  
1088  
1089  
1089  
1090  
1091  
1092  
1093  
1094  
1095  
1096  
1097  
1098  
1099  
1100  
1101  
1102  
1103  
1104  
1105  
1106  
1107  
1108  
1109  
1109  
1110  
1111  
1112  
1113  
1114  
1115  
1116  
1117  
1118  
1119  
1119  
1120  
1121  
1122  
1123  
1124  
1125  
1126  
1127  
1128  
1129  
1129  
1130  
1131  
1132  
1133  
1134  
1135  
1136  
1137  
1138  
1139  
1139  
1140  
1141  
1142  
1143  
1144  
1145  
1146  
1147  
1148  
1149  
1149  
1150  
1151  
1152  
1153  
1154  
1155  
1156  
1157  
1158  
1159  
1159  
1160  
1161  
1162  
1163  
1164  
1165  
1166  
1167  
1168  
1169  
1169  
1170  
1171  
1172  
1173  
1174  
1175  
1176  
1177  
1178  
1179  
1179  
1180  
1181  
1182  
1183  
1184  
1185  
1186  
1187  
1188  
1189  
1189  
1190  
1191  
1192  
1193  
1194  
1195  
1196  
1197  
1198  
1199  
1200  
1201  
1202  
1203  
1204  
1205  
1206  
1207  
1208  
1209  
1209  
1210  
1211  
1212  
1213  
1214  
1215  
1216  
1217  
1218  
1219  
1219  
1220  
1221  
1222  
1223  
1224  
1225  
1226  
1227  
1228  
1229  
1229  
1230  
1231  
1232  
1233  
1234  
1235  
1236  
1237  
1238  
1239  
1239  
1240  
1241  
1242  
1243  
1244  
1245  
1246  
1247  
1248  
1249  
1249  
1250  
1251  
1252  
1253  
1254  
1255  
1256  
1257  
1258  
1259  
1259  
1260  
1261  
1262  
1263  
1264  
1265  
1266  
1267  
1268  
1269  
1269  
1270  
1271  
1272  
1273  
1274  
1275  
1276  
1277  
1278  
1279  
1279  
1280  
1281  
1282  
1283  
1284  
1285  
1286  
1287  
1288  
1289  
1289  
1290  
1291  
1292  
1293  
1294  
1295  
1296  
1297  
1298  
1299  
1300  
1301  
1302  
1303  
1304  
1305  
1306  
1307  
1308  
1309  
1309  
1310  
1311  
1312  
1313  
1314  
1315  
1316  
1317  
1318  
1319  
1319  
1320  
1321  
1322  
1323  
1324  
1325  
1326  
1327  
1328  
1329  
1329  
1330  
1331  
1332  
1333  
1334  
1335  
1336  
1337  
1338  
1339  
1339  
1340  
1341  
1342  
1343  
1344  
1345  
1346  
1347  
1348  
1349  
1349  
1350  
1351  
1352  
1353  
1354  
1355  
1356  
1357  
1358  
1359  
1359  
1360  
1361  
1362  
1363  
1364  
1365  
1366  
1367  
1368  
1369  
1369  
1370  
1371  
1372  
1373  
1374  
1375  
1376  
1377  
1378  
1379  
1379  
1380  
1381  
1382  
1383  
1384  
1385  
1386  
1387  
1388  
1389  
1389  
1390  
1391  
1392  
1393  
1394  
1395  
1396  
1397  
1398  
1399  
1400  
1401  
1402  
1403  
1404  
1405  
1406  
1407  
1408  
1409  
1409  
1410  
1411  
1412  
1413  
1414  
1415  
1416  
1417  
1418  
1419  
1419  
1420  
1421  
1422  
1423  
1424  
1425  
1426  
1427  
1428  
1429  
1429  
1430  
1431  
1432  
1433  
1434  
1435  
1436  
1437  
1438  
1439  
1439  
1440  
1441  
1442  
1443  
1444  
1445  
1446  
1447  
1448  
1449  
1449  
1450  
1451  
1452  
1453  
1454  
1455  
1456  
1457  
1458  
1459  
1459  
1460  
1461  
1462  
1463  
1464  
1465  
1466  
1467  
1468  
1469  
1469  
1470  
1471  
1472  
1473  
1474  
1475  
1476  
1477  
1478  
1479  
1479  
1480  
1481  
1482  
1483  
1484  
1485  
1486  
1487  
1488  
1489  
1489  
1490  
1491  
1492  
1493  
1494  
1495  
1496  
1497  
1498  
1499  
1500  
1501  
1502  
1503  
1504  
1505  
1506  
1507  
1508  
1509  
1509  
1510  
1511  
1512  
1513  
1514  
1515  
1516  
1517  
1518  
1519  
1519  
1520  
1521  
1522  
1523  
1524  
1525  
1526  
1527  
1528  
1529  
1529  
1530  
1531  
1532  
1533  
1534  
1535  
1536  
1537  
1538  
1539  
1539  
1540  
1541  
1542  
1543  
1544  
1545  
1546  
1547  
1548  
1549  
1549  
1550  
1551  
1552  
1553  
1554  
1555  
1556  
1557  
1558  
1559  
1559  
1560  
1561  
1562  
1563  
1564  
1565  
1566  
1567  
1568  
1569  
1569  
1570  
1571  
1572  
1573  
1574  
1575  
1576  
1577  
1578  
1579  
1579  
1580  
1581  
1582  
1583  
1584  
1585  
1586  
1587  
1588  
1589  
1589  
1590  
1591  
1592  
1593  
1594  
1595  
1596  
1597  
1598  
1599  
1600  
1601  
1602  
1603  
1604  
1605  
1606  
1607  
1608  
1609  
1609  
1610  
1611  
1612  
1613  
1614  
1615  
1616  
1617  
1618  
1619  
1619  
1620  
1621  
1622  
1623  
1624  
1625  
1626  
1627  
1628  
1629  
1629  
1630  
1631  
1632  
1633  
1634  
1635  
1636  
1637  
1638  
1639  
1639  
1640  
1641  
1642  
1643  
1644  
1645  
1646  
1647  
1648  
1649  
1649  
1650  
1651  
1652  
1653  
1654  
1655  
1656  
1657  
1658  
1659  
1659  
1660  
1661  
1662  
1663  
1664  
1665  
1666  
1667  
1668  
1669  
1669  
1670  
1671  
1672  
1673  
1674  
1675  
1676  
1677  
1678  
1679  
1679  
1680  
1681  
1682  
1683  
1684  
1685  
1686  
1687  
1688  
1689  
1689  
1690  
1691  
1692  
1693  
1694  
1695  
1696  
1697  
1698  
1699  
1700  
1701  
1702  
1703  
1704  
1705  
1706  
1707  
1708  
1709  
1709  
1710  
1711  
1712  
1713  
1714  
1715  
1716  
1717  
1718  
1719  
1719  
1720  
1721  
1722  
1723  
1724  
1725  
1726  
1727  
1728  
1729  
1729  
1730  
1731  
1732  
1733  
1734  
1735  
1736  
1737  
1738  
1739  
1739  
1740  
1741  
1742  
1743  
1744  
1745  
1746  
1747  
1748  
1749  
1749  
1750  
1751  
1752  
1753  
1754  
1755  
1756  
1757  
1758  
1759  
1759  
1760  
1761  
1762  
1763  
1764  
1765  
1766  
1767  
1768  
1769  
1769  
1770  
1771  
1772  
1773  
1774  
1775  
1776  
1777  
1778  
1779  
1779  
1780  
1781  
1782  
1783  
1784  
1785  
1786  
1787  
1788  
1789  
1789  
1790  
1791  
1792  
1793  
1794  
1795  
1796  
1797  
1798  
1799  
1800  
1801  
1802  
1803  
1804  
1805  
1806  
1807  
1808  
1809  
1809  
1810  
1811  
1812  
1813  
1814  
1815  
1816  
1817  
1818  
1819  
1819  
1820  
1821  
1822  
1823  
1824  
1825  
1826  
1827  
1828  
1829  
1829  
1830  
1831  
1832  
1833  
1834  
1835  
1836  
1837  
1838  
1839  
1839  
1840  
1841  
1842  
1843  
1844  
1845  
1846  
1847  
1848  
1849  
1849  
1850  
1851  
1852  
1853  
1854  
1855  
1856  
1857  
1858  
1859  
1859  
1860  
1861  
1862  
1863  
1864  
1865  
1866  
1867  
1868  
1869  
1869  
1870  
1871  
1872  
1873  
1874  
1875  
1876  
1877  
1878  
1879  
1879  
1880  
1881  
1882  
1883  
1884  
1885  
1886  
1887  
1888  
1889  
1889  
1890  
1891  
1892  
1893  
1894  
1895  
1896  
1897  
1898  
1899  
1900  
1901  
1902  
1903  
1904  
1905  
1906  
1907  
1908  
1909  
1909  
1910  
1911  
1912  
1913  
1914  
1915  
1916  
1917  
1918  
1919  
1919  
1920  
1921  
1922  
1923  
1924  
1925  
1926  
1927  
1928  
1929  
1929  
1930  
1931  
1932  
1933  
1934  
1935  
1936  
1937  
1938  
1939  
1939  
1940  
1941  
1942  
1943  
1944  
1945  
1946  
1947  
1948  
1949  
1949  
1950  
1951  
1952  
1953  
1954  
1955  
1956  
1957  
1958  
1959  
1959  
1960  
1961  
1962  
1963  
1964  
1965  
1966  
1967  
1968  
1969  
1969  
1970  
1971  
1972  
1973  
1974  
1975  
1976  
1977  
1978  
1979  
1979  
1980  
1981  
1982  
1983  
1984  
1985  
1986  
1987  
1988  
1989  
1989  
1990  
1991  
1992  
1993  
1994  
1995  
1996  
1997  
1998  
1999  
2000  
2001  
2002  
2003  
2004  
2005  
2006  
2007  
2008  
2009  
2010  
2011  
2012  
2013  
2014  
2015  
2016  
2017  
2018  
2019  
2020  
2021  
2022  
2023  
2024  
2025  
2026  
2027  
2028  
2029  
2030  
2031  
2032  
2033  
2034  
2035  
2036  
2037  
2038  
2039  
2040  
2041  
2042  
2043  
2044  
2045  
2046  
2047  
2048  
2049  
2049  
2050  
2051  
2052  
2053  
2054  
2055  
2056  
2057  
2058  
2059  
2059  
2060  
2061  
2062  
2063  
2064  
2065  
2066  
2067  
2068  
2069  
2069  
2070  
2071  
2072  
2073  
2074  
2075  
2076  
2077  
2078  
2079  
2079  
2080  
2081  
2082  
2083  
2084  
2085  
2086  
2087  
2088  
2089  
2089  
2090  
2091  
2092  
2093  
2094  
2095  
2096  
2097  
2098  
2099  
2100  
2101  
2102  
2103  
2104  
2105  
2106  
2107  
2108  
210

---

STANDARD Bloomberg

**STANDARD & POOR'S** **Bloomberg**  
[www.bloomberg.com/](http://www.bloomberg.com/)

**Micropal**

11. *Leucosia* (Leucosia) *leucosia* (Linnaeus) (Fig. 11)

## SPORT

## A fight for the soul of rugby



**Tony O'Reilly**, who won 29 caps for Ireland and scored a record-breaking 38 tries for the Lions, fears that the unique appeal of rugby union is under threat in the professional era

PETER KININMONTH, a former captain of Scotland, said in ancient times: "We don't have much money, but we do have fun." The opposite may now be the case. The game which was played for recreation, pleasure, some exercise and fleeting moments of glory has now become a professional sport. In consequence, it has changed in ways that are good, in ways that are bad, and in some ways that are as yet incalculable. Most importantly, the future of this once Corinthian game is today up for very public debate.

Put simply, rugby football at the highest level is now seen as a professional calling with all that implies in terms of contractual obligations, demands for performance, critical crowds, the potential for great rewards for some players and an alarming feeling of instability that appears to permeate player, official and, to a degree, spectator alike.

First the game: played at its best, many of the rule changes today have been enormously beneficial. However, the assisted jump and the pointlessness of fighting for possession make line-outs and loose rucks merely a means of restarting the game against your opponents. Their reaction is the rugby league one of stringing defenders across the field, as Australia did so brilliantly against England in the final of the World Cup in 1991, and all the while hoping for some breakdown to give a scooting try to their fast runners.

The gladiatorial clash of players, who seem startlingly larger than I recall them, can be as boring as its rugby league counterpart. The loose ruck (Colin Meads once told me that a loose ruck could go on for three months in New Zealand), the forward rush and dribble, the swerve and the sideslip, the desire to beat your opposite number by eluding him, is no longer part of the main game. Running into a man rather than away from him is the new bible of rugby. The aim is to get yourself in a position where, with a three-to-two or a two-to-one overlap, you will score by straight running.

Much of this is very virtuous and there are aspects which I would enjoy greatly in the modern game, but there is a real danger that, as tactics improve, the defender may gain the upper hand, and the glory of the game as a running spectacle may be somewhat diminished.

All of this, however, is remediable. In contrast, there is a great danger that the unique spirit of rugby football and the collegiality of its clubs may be lost in a welter of accusations and counter-accusations that makes the Middle East look like a relative haven of calm.

The nature of the problems are extraordinary. We have large English clubs accusing their own Rugby

Union of exerting too much control. You have the International Rugby Board chastising the Rugby Football Union for the action of its clubs, whose own actions seek to damage the very Union that defends it. You have a European Cup without the English clubs. You have players whose loyalties are divided between country, province and club, and you have a potential unilateral declaration of independence by the RFU and television from the other Unions, which challenges the very financial lifeblood of the game.

In this maelstrom of imputation and counter-statement, one thing is quite clear: rugby clubs cannot afford to pay the escalating playing salaries (and now transfer fees) of the players if they are to continue. The combination of gates and television receipts are simply insufficient to match the outlays associated with all the principal clubs. Almost every major club will report a loss this year. The losses can only grow because the game, although popular at the international level, will never have the support at the domestic level that a club requires to pay all its bills. This applies as much to Leicester, one of my old clubs and a very successful one too, as it does to Dolphin or Old Belvedere, another two of my old clubs. There will be no Manchester United in rugby football.

A partial solution would be the one aired by Dan Rooney, the president and owner of the Pittsburgh Steelers, in London two years ago at a conference organised by Rugby News. He advocated a cap on the amount each club could pay all its players, as operated in the United States in American Football. It has the effect of equalising competition for good players throughout the country and making cost and expense equate to one another. If the cap is £2m and a club wishes to pay £2m for one player, it would have to pay nothing for the other 14 or 20 players, as the case may be.

The contrast between the figures paid for baseball and basketball players and those paid in American Football would make instructive reading for all club treasurers in the rugby-playing world.

In short, rugby football should not be the province of a small handful of individuals or clubs, but should be in the trusteeship and affordable ownership of all committed people, in large and small clubs throughout the world. This gives the game its unique appeal.

On the thorny issue of contracts, I believe that although the basic contract should be with the clubs, the additional cash flow must be from the independent Rugby Unions through their very large revenues from gate receipts and TV payments for internationals, and



Nelson Mandela presents the winners' trophy to François Pienaar, the South Africa captain, after the 1995 World Cup final in Johannesburg

Reuters

paid by agreement to the clubs after allowing for the Unions' own development and administrative expenses. Most importantly, there should be a commonality of purpose between the Unions and the clubs as to the performance of that country in international competition, and the contracts should reflect that.

In Ireland, the clubs in all their vigour, loyalty, fun and diversity must be encouraged by the Rugby Union to flourish. While there will be contracts at club level, the primary contracts should be with the provinces and the national squad, and the provinces should have the right to represent Ireland in the European League and Cup, if that is the final structure agreed upon by all the Unions.

On the thorny issue of contracts,

I believe that although the basic contract should be with the clubs, the additional cash flow must be from the independent Rugby

Unions through their very large revenues from gate receipts and TV payments for internationals, and

nations – and beyond, if justified – should participate to ensure maximum spectator appeal. The fact that Ravenhill in Belfast will cater for a crowd of more than 20,000 people for the European Cup semi-final against Stade Français today is an eloquent testimony to the pulling power of European competition, and the contracts should reflect that.

In Ireland, the clubs in all their vigour, loyalty, fun and diversity must be encouraged by the Rugby Union to flourish. While there will be contracts at club level, the primary contracts should be with the provinces and the national squad, and the provinces should have the right to represent Ireland in the European League and Cup, if that is the final structure agreed upon by all the Unions.

Finally, the issue of competition has reduced itself to an absurdity with the English clubs pulling out of the European Cup. Whether you have a European Cup and League or simply a European Cup, all the best clubs and provinces in the five

nations – and beyond, if justified – should participate to ensure maximum spectator appeal. The fact that Ravenhill in Belfast will cater for a crowd of more than 20,000 people for the European Cup semi-final against Stade Français today is an eloquent testimony to the pulling power of European competition, and the contracts should reflect that.

In Ireland, the clubs in all their vigour, loyalty, fun and diversity must be encouraged by the Rugby Union to flourish. While there will be contracts at club level, the primary contracts should be with the provinces and the national squad, and the provinces should have the right to represent Ireland in the European League and Cup, if that is the final structure agreed upon by all the Unions.

Finally, the issue of competition has reduced itself to an absurdity with the English clubs pulling out of the European Cup. Whether you have a European Cup and League or simply a European Cup, all the best clubs and provinces in the five

nations – and beyond, if justified – should participate to ensure maximum spectator appeal. The fact that Ravenhill in Belfast will cater for a crowd of more than 20,000 people for the European Cup semi-final against Stade Français today is an eloquent testimony to the pulling power of European competition, and the contracts should reflect that.

In Ireland, the clubs in all their vigour, loyalty, fun and diversity must be encouraged by the Rugby Union to flourish. While there will be contracts at club level, the primary contracts should be with the provinces and the national squad, and the provinces should have the right to represent Ireland in the European League and Cup, if that is the final structure agreed upon by all the Unions.

Finally, the issue of competition has reduced itself to an absurdity with the English clubs pulling out of the European Cup. Whether you have a European Cup and League or simply a European Cup, all the best clubs and provinces in the five

nations – and beyond, if justified – should participate to ensure maximum spectator appeal. The fact that Ravenhill in Belfast will cater for a crowd of more than 20,000 people for the European Cup semi-final against Stade Français today is an eloquent testimony to the pulling power of European competition, and the contracts should reflect that.

In Ireland, the clubs in all their vigour, loyalty, fun and diversity must be encouraged by the Rugby Union to flourish. While there will be contracts at club level, the primary contracts should be with the provinces and the national squad, and the provinces should have the right to represent Ireland in the European League and Cup, if that is the final structure agreed upon by all the Unions.

Finally, the issue of competition has reduced itself to an absurdity with the English clubs pulling out of the European Cup. Whether you have a European Cup and League or simply a European Cup, all the best clubs and provinces in the five

nations – and beyond, if justified – should participate to ensure maximum spectator appeal. The fact that Ravenhill in Belfast will cater for a crowd of more than 20,000 people for the European Cup semi-final against Stade Français today is an eloquent testimony to the pulling power of European competition, and the contracts should reflect that.

In Ireland, the clubs in all their vigour, loyalty, fun and diversity must be encouraged by the Rugby Union to flourish. While there will be contracts at club level, the primary contracts should be with the provinces and the national squad, and the provinces should have the right to represent Ireland in the European League and Cup, if that is the final structure agreed upon by all the Unions.

Finally, the issue of competition has reduced itself to an absurdity with the English clubs pulling out of the European Cup. Whether you have a European Cup and League or simply a European Cup, all the best clubs and provinces in the five

nations – and beyond, if justified – should participate to ensure maximum spectator appeal. The fact that Ravenhill in Belfast will cater for a crowd of more than 20,000 people for the European Cup semi-final against Stade Français today is an eloquent testimony to the pulling power of European competition, and the contracts should reflect that.

In Ireland, the clubs in all their vigour, loyalty, fun and diversity must be encouraged by the Rugby Union to flourish. While there will be contracts at club level, the primary contracts should be with the provinces and the national squad, and the provinces should have the right to represent Ireland in the European League and Cup, if that is the final structure agreed upon by all the Unions.

Finally, the issue of competition has reduced itself to an absurdity with the English clubs pulling out of the European Cup. Whether you have a European Cup and League or simply a European Cup, all the best clubs and provinces in the five

nations – and beyond, if justified – should participate to ensure maximum spectator appeal. The fact that Ravenhill in Belfast will cater for a crowd of more than 20,000 people for the European Cup semi-final against Stade Français today is an eloquent testimony to the pulling power of European competition, and the contracts should reflect that.

In Ireland, the clubs in all their vigour, loyalty, fun and diversity must be encouraged by the Rugby Union to flourish. While there will be contracts at club level, the primary contracts should be with the provinces and the national squad, and the provinces should have the right to represent Ireland in the European League and Cup, if that is the final structure agreed upon by all the Unions.

Finally, the issue of competition has reduced itself to an absurdity with the English clubs pulling out of the European Cup. Whether you have a European Cup and League or simply a European Cup, all the best clubs and provinces in the five

nations – and beyond, if justified – should participate to ensure maximum spectator appeal. The fact that Ravenhill in Belfast will cater for a crowd of more than 20,000 people for the European Cup semi-final against Stade Français today is an eloquent testimony to the pulling power of European competition, and the contracts should reflect that.

In Ireland, the clubs in all their vigour, loyalty, fun and diversity must be encouraged by the Rugby Union to flourish. While there will be contracts at club level, the primary contracts should be with the provinces and the national squad, and the provinces should have the right to represent Ireland in the European League and Cup, if that is the final structure agreed upon by all the Unions.

Finally, the issue of competition has reduced itself to an absurdity with the English clubs pulling out of the European Cup. Whether you have a European Cup and League or simply a European Cup, all the best clubs and provinces in the five

nations – and beyond, if justified – should participate to ensure maximum spectator appeal. The fact that Ravenhill in Belfast will cater for a crowd of more than 20,000 people for the European Cup semi-final against Stade Français today is an eloquent testimony to the pulling power of European competition, and the contracts should reflect that.

In Ireland, the clubs in all their vigour, loyalty, fun and diversity must be encouraged by the Rugby Union to flourish. While there will be contracts at club level, the primary contracts should be with the provinces and the national squad, and the provinces should have the right to represent Ireland in the European League and Cup, if that is the final structure agreed upon by all the Unions.

Finally, the issue of competition has reduced itself to an absurdity with the English clubs pulling out of the European Cup. Whether you have a European Cup and League or simply a European Cup, all the best clubs and provinces in the five

nations – and beyond, if justified – should participate to ensure maximum spectator appeal. The fact that Ravenhill in Belfast will cater for a crowd of more than 20,000 people for the European Cup semi-final against Stade Français today is an eloquent testimony to the pulling power of European competition, and the contracts should reflect that.

In Ireland, the clubs in all their vigour, loyalty, fun and diversity must be encouraged by the Rugby Union to flourish. While there will be contracts at club level, the primary contracts should be with the provinces and the national squad, and the provinces should have the right to represent Ireland in the European League and Cup, if that is the final structure agreed upon by all the Unions.

Finally, the issue of competition has reduced itself to an absurdity with the English clubs pulling out of the European Cup. Whether you have a European Cup and League or simply a European Cup, all the best clubs and provinces in the five

nations – and beyond, if justified – should participate to ensure maximum spectator appeal. The fact that Ravenhill in Belfast will cater for a crowd of more than 20,000 people for the European Cup semi-final against Stade Français today is an eloquent testimony to the pulling power of European competition, and the contracts should reflect that.

In Ireland, the clubs in all their vigour, loyalty, fun and diversity must be encouraged by the Rugby Union to flourish. While there will be contracts at club level, the primary contracts should be with the provinces and the national squad, and the provinces should have the right to represent Ireland in the European League and Cup, if that is the final structure agreed upon by all the Unions.

Finally, the issue of competition has reduced itself to an absurdity with the English clubs pulling out of the European Cup. Whether you have a European Cup and League or simply a European Cup, all the best clubs and provinces in the five

nations – and beyond, if justified – should participate to ensure maximum spectator appeal. The fact that Ravenhill in Belfast will cater for a crowd of more than 20,000 people for the European Cup semi-final against Stade Français today is an eloquent testimony to the pulling power of European competition, and the contracts should reflect that.

In Ireland, the clubs in all their vigour, loyalty, fun and diversity must be encouraged by the Rugby Union to flourish. While there will be contracts at club level, the primary contracts should be with the provinces and the national squad, and the provinces should have the right to represent Ireland in the European League and Cup, if that is the final structure agreed upon by all the Unions.

Finally, the issue of competition has reduced itself to an absurdity with the English clubs pulling out of the European Cup. Whether you have a European Cup and League or simply a European Cup, all the best clubs and provinces in the five

nations – and beyond, if justified – should participate to ensure maximum spectator appeal. The fact that Ravenhill in Belfast will cater for a crowd of more than 20,000 people for the European Cup semi-final against Stade Français today is an eloquent testimony to the pulling power of European competition, and the contracts should reflect that.

In Ireland, the clubs in all their vigour, loyalty, fun and diversity must be encouraged by the Rugby Union to flourish. While there will be contracts at club level, the primary contracts should be with the provinces and the national squad, and the provinces should have the right to represent Ireland in the European League and Cup, if that is the final structure agreed upon by all the Unions.

Finally, the issue of competition has reduced itself to an absurdity with the English clubs pulling out of the European Cup. Whether you have a European Cup and League or simply a European Cup, all the best clubs and provinces in the five

nations – and beyond, if justified – should participate to ensure maximum spectator appeal. The fact that Ravenhill in Belfast will cater for a crowd of more than 20,000 people for the European Cup semi-final against Stade Français today is an eloquent testimony to the pulling power of European competition, and the contracts should reflect that.

In Ireland, the clubs in all their vigour, loyalty, fun and diversity must be encouraged by the Rugby Union to flourish. While there will be contracts at club level, the primary contracts should be with the provinces and the national squad, and the provinces should have the right to represent Ireland in the European League and Cup, if that is the final structure agreed upon by all the Unions.

Finally, the issue of competition has reduced itself to an absurdity with the English clubs pulling out of the European Cup. Whether you have a European Cup and League or simply a European Cup, all the best clubs and provinces in the five

nations – and beyond, if justified – should participate to ensure maximum spectator appeal. The fact that Ravenhill in Belfast will cater for a crowd of more than 20,000 people for the European Cup semi-final against Stade Français today is an eloquent testimony to the pulling power of European competition, and the contracts should reflect that.

In Ireland, the clubs in all their vigour, loyalty, fun and diversity must be encouraged by the Rugby Union to flourish. While there will be contracts at club level, the primary contracts should be with the provinces and the national squad, and the provinces should have the right to represent Ireland in the European League and Cup, if that is the final structure agreed upon by all the Unions.

Finally, the issue of competition has reduced itself to an absurdity with the English clubs pulling out of the European Cup. Whether you have a European Cup and League or simply a European Cup, all the best clubs and provinces in the five

nations – and beyond, if justified – should participate to ensure maximum spectator appeal. The fact that Ravenhill in Belfast will cater for a crowd of more than 20,000 people for the European Cup semi-final against Stade Français today is an eloquent testimony to the pulling power of European competition, and the contracts should reflect that.

In Ireland, the clubs in all their vigour, loyalty, fun and diversity must be encouraged by the Rugby Union to flourish. While there will be contracts at club level, the primary contracts should be with the provinces and the national squad, and the provinces should have the right to represent Ireland in the European League and Cup, if that is the final structure agreed upon by all the Unions.

Finally, the issue of competition has reduced itself to an absurdity with the English clubs pulling out of the European Cup. Whether you have a European Cup and League or simply a European Cup, all the best clubs and provinces in the five

nations – and beyond, if justified – should participate to ensure maximum spectator appeal. The fact that Ravenhill in Belfast will cater for a crowd of more than 20,000 people for the European Cup semi-final against Stade Français today is an eloquent testimony to the pulling power of European competition, and the contracts should reflect that.

In Ireland, the clubs in all their vigour, loyalty, fun and diversity must be encouraged by the Rugby Union to flourish. While there will be contracts at club level, the primary contracts should be with the provinces and the national squad, and the provinces should have the right to represent Ireland in the European League and Cup, if that is the final structure agreed upon by all the Unions.

## Hill still taking it on the chin 28 years later

LET ME first say that Jimmy Hill deserves eternal credit for his key role in effecting the abolition of the maximum wage for professional footballers.

Let me add that the enterprising style of management he displayed in taking Coventry City into the First Division in the late 1960s was a model for its times.

Right. Having got that out of the way, I feel free to... oh no I don't. Not quite.

Chin I say this because the word is always mentioned in connection with Hill, and even though I have no particular view on it I don't want to miss out. Chin. There you are. I've said it again.

Now – over the past 30 years, Hill's comments about the game, first on ITV, then BBC – have

MIKE ROWBOTTOM

aggravated me beyond reason. Like his fellow panellists Terry Venables and more recently Alan Hansen, I have found his dogged assertions hard to bear. Like Harry in "Catch 22", nothing can alter his benign certainty in his own

ineffable wisdom. Shout at him, pound him with your flagging fists – it won't do any good.

</

European Cup: Neglected Pool-Jones is primed to impress for French at Ravenhill today

# England by exile has Paris at his feet

BY CHRIS HEWETT

ERNEST HEMINGWAY'S evocative celebration of Paris as a "moveable feast" clearly struck a chord with Richard Pool-Jones, who has been gorging himself silly on its splendours for three wonderfully stimulating years. Armed with an economics degree from Toulouse University and enough French to recognise his Truffauts from his truffies, England's most successful ex-pat rugby nut finds himself in the middle of a personal *belle epoch*. He runs a printing business with a multi-million Euro turnover; he is in the process of moving into a flat in the swanky seventh arrondissement - "Aim for the Eiffel Tower and you'll be in the right neighbourhood" - and, most impressively of all, he has cemented his place in the strongest club side on the planet, which is more than can be said for half-a-dozen Test-playing *Tricolores*.

And yet, the 29-year-old Stade Français flanker remains unfulfilled. To the best of his knowledge, neither Clive Woodward nor anyone else from the England hierarchy has watched him play since he half-killed himself in the national cause in Rotorua almost seven months ago. "Out of sight, out of mind," he says sadly. "It seems to me that no matter what I do here in France, however well I play, I'm seen as someone from a totally different world. I'd love to have to another chance with England; in all modesty, if I'm making the starting line-up here, I'm playing as near to Test level as makes no difference. For whatever reason, though, it's not happening for me on the England front."

It is, then, wholly understandable that he should see this afternoon's momentous European Cup semi-final with Ulster as an occasion shot through with personal significance. He does not for a moment expect any Twickenham big-wigs to be in attendance, but such is the excitement surrounding the match that every rugby man worth his salt will beg, borrow or steal a tape of proceedings at Ravenhill. The way Pool-Jones figures it, Belfast is the nearest he is likely to get to Woodward's line of vision this side of the World Cup.

On the face of it, his brief flurry of red rose activity last summer was hardly an unmitigated success; after winning his first cap among the romper-suited



Richard Pool-Jones, the Stade Français flanker, in action in one of his rare England appearances. Allsport

finds the Stade Français buzz gloriously addictive.

Bankrolled by the Parisian radio mogul Max Guazzini and positively smothered with Test-class talent, the club is among the sexiest sporting attractions anywhere in France - no mean achievement for a rugby outfit in the land of the football world

*'The English boycott has denied me the opportunity of playing in the shop window against Neil Back or Richard Hill'*

champions. "It is," agrees Pool-Jones, "an astonishing set-up. Sébastien Vias [the former France wing] said recently that it's harder to get picked by Stade Français than it is by France and, without being funny, I think he's dead right."

"Look at last weekend, for instance. We fielded what amounted to a second team at

Castres - most of us were resting up for Ulster - and it included Marc Lievremont, a Grand Slam flanker last season, and the whole Simon-Moscati-Gibert front row that everyone assumed was our number one unit at the start of the European Cup tournament. Franck Comba, another recent

Test player, can't get in at centre because Cliff Myton is playing better rugby than anyone.

That's the measure of the standard here. We even win away from home in the French championship, which is not really the traditional way of going about things in this country.

"Still, all that will mean nothing if we get it wrong in Belfast.

If we were playing a top English side with a cup final place at stake, we could not conceivably be any more serious than we are about this game. Sure, I'd have loved to have mixed it with the English in this year's tournament; their boycott has probably cost me personally in that it denied me the opportunity of playing in the shop window against Neil Back or Richard Hill. But Stade Français are in the tournament and the Cup is there to be won. You're either European champions or you're not. In five years' time, who will remember the boycott?"

Not for the first time, Pool-Jones will perform a fistful of roles this afternoon, acting not merely as open-side flanker but as go-between, negotiator, translator and apologist for his club-mates as they attempt to deal with a fired-up band of ultra-physical Ulstermen, a frenzied atmosphere and a referee in the authoritarian shape

of Scotland's own Jim Fleming. "Our discipline is the big factor, because we certainly have the skills to win this match," he says. "The French are generally at a disadvantage in that they rarely, if ever, have the luxury of one of their own officials in a cross-border fixture. And let's be honest: British referees see French club rugby in a very poor light and understandably so. It can still be very violent, especially in the sticks. I think I'll be fairly busy out there on the pitch, one way or another."

Whether Pool-Jones executes his many responsibilities with sufficient pizzazz to re-awaken Woodward's dormant interest is a seriously moot point. Life has its little consolations, though. As Hemingway said: "If you are lucky enough to have lived in Paris as a young man, then wherever you go for the rest of your life, it stays with you."

## Gallic goliaths await Humphreys' Ulster

IT WOULD BE stretching a point to describe Ravenhill as an oasis of rugby sanity, especially when 20,000 Ulstermen are preparing to give Stade Français the mother and father of all ear-bashings in this afternoon's perfectly poised European Cup semi-final, writes Chris Hewett. But this much can safely be predicted: for 80 wind-swept minutes in Belfast, passion will temporarily replace politics as the common currency of a game slowly sinking in a quicksand of greed, chicanery and naked self-interest. In short, it will be a sight for sore eyes.

The English clubs' boycott of this season's championship remains the most desperate of many tactical errors in their ongoing conflict with rugby officials, be it in the shape of the International Board, the Rugby Football Union or European Rugby Cup Ltd, those far from blameless administrators whose shamless stewardship of the competition would be enough to make a person swear. If the English pulled out on the basis that there could be no half-decent tournament without them, they were badly mistaken. Ulster, ironically reinforced by a bat-

talion of Allied Dunbar Premiership refugees, have made a glorious scrap of the thing by dumping Toulouse on their well-appointed Gallic backsides en route to the last four.

David Humphreys, the former London Irish outside-half who has captained Ulster throughout their European adventure in the absence of Mark McCall, is almost unnaturally modest in his assessment of his province's timely renaissance as a major power in northern hemisphere rugby. "I think it's too simplistic to put our improvement down to the return of the Premiership contingent," he insists. "The thing that has struck me most deeply this season is the performance of people like Gary Longwell, our lock, and Tony McWhirter, our flanker, who have played all their senior rugby here."

For all that, it is to Humphreys, Simon Mason, Jon Bell and Allen Clarke that Ulster will look this afternoon, for no one comes within a bull's roar of beating Stade Français, the overwhelming favourites, without maximising every ounce of available talent, experience, and general know-how. They will play with all the Irishness associated with Ulster and, yes,

## Worcester prepare for a cold reception

BY DAVID LLEWELLIN

THE EXPANSE of mud normally known as Kingsholm is not everyone's field of dreams, and an 8.30 pitch inspection this morning passes it fit, if it will be the setting of a Tedley's Bitter Cup nightmare for Second Division Worcester.

Les Cusworth, director of rugby at promotion hopefuls Worcester, said yesterday: "Historically Kingsholm is the one place you would choose not to play. I'll be pleased if we just give a good account ourselves."

Worcester have six former Gloucester players in their squad but they are unlikely to stop the Cherry and Whites, who have club captain Dave Sims on the bench, from winning.

There is unlikely to be the same confidence at Kingston Park where Newcastle take on the undisputed Cup kings, Bath, who have won the competition 10 times since 1984. Bath arrive in the North East on the back of a stirring midweek Premiership victory at Sale. Bath, whose Cup record reads 50 wins from 76 matches, are unchanged.

Tomorrow, Kendal are at home to an injury-hit London Scottish, who are at the lower end of the First Division. And Henley, who are second in Jarrow League One, will put up

a fight when they visit Bedford, struggling on and off the field in the Premiership. Henley are in formidable form, having scored 51 tries while conceding 17.

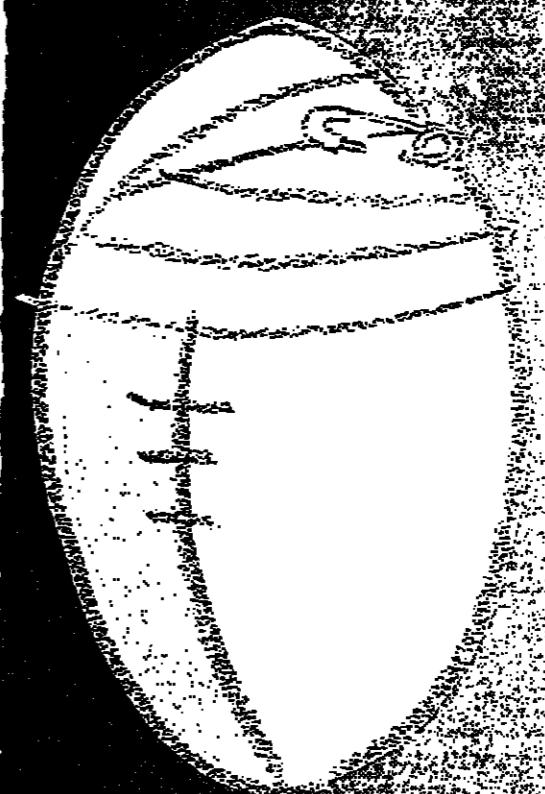
Jarrow One side Morley host Saracens, who have made sweeping changes to the side which drew with Wasps in midweek. That includes giving a first-team debut to tight-head prop Jonathan Dawson, an England Under-21 international.

London Irish are without dynamo No 8 Isaac Fauau and Peter Rogers, both suffering from knee injuries, but they should still have few problems at Second Division Bristol and expect a similar story at Reading where Richmond tackle Newbury of Jarrow One.

In Wales, Cardiff will be looking to avenge last month's defeat in the unofficial Anglo-Welsh match against Swansea when they entertain the All Whites at the Arms Park. Pontypridd have made a bid to bring Will Carling to Wales. The former England captain is being targeted by the 1997 Welsh champions with Eddie Jones, the club's manager, saying: "I have spoken to his agent and he told me that Will would look at the idea. We would have him here tomorrow if he said yes."



Win a  
trip to Paris  
to see  
international  
rugby



by asking  
about  
Lloyds TSB  
Health  
Protection.

For more details  
visit your local  
branch of Lloyds Bank  
or TSB or phone  
us now on  
0800 056 0043  
(ref P07).

Lloyds TSB

Lloyds Bank plc registered in England and Wales number 2065. TSB Bank plc registered in England and Wales number 1089268. Lloyds TSB Insurance Services Limited registered in England and Wales number 968406. All the above companies are registered at 71 Lombard Street, London, EC3P 3BS. TSB Bank Scotland plc registered in Scotland number 95237. Registered address 120 George Street, Edinburgh, EH2 4LH. Please ask a member of staff for the terms and conditions of the prize draw, which can be found in the in-branch campaign leaflet.

[www.lloydstsb.co.uk/yourprotection](http://www.lloydstsb.co.uk/yourprotection)

# Native looks powerful ally

By GREG WOOD

IT IS not often that anyone wishes for more rain in Ireland, but by this evening punters on both sides of the sea may be cursing the fact that an extra inch or two did not fall on Leopardstown this week. On Tuesday, the going on the hurdles course was heavy and the forecast poor, putting today's Ladbroke Hurdle in doubt. The rain did not materialise, though, and 25 runners go to post for one of the most unpredictable events in the calendar.

**RICHARD EDMONDSON**  
Nap: Call It A Day  
(Sandown 3.05)  
NB: Hit And Run  
(Sandown 12.55)

Even by its standards, today's Ladbroke is daunting. The ground is bottomless and the field handicapped to finish in a multiple dead-heat, while the tight inner hurdles course at Leopardstown will wreak its usual havoc on a tightly-bunched field which goes a strong pace all the way.

None the less, most punters will dabble, and Advocate, the ante-post favourite, will remain a popular choice. Noel Meade's principal hope from three runners has form in several top handicaps, including a fifth place in this race last year. But he will need to have improved, and at nine, that seems unlikely.

Impulsive Dream is another leading fancy, but he too is old and exposed, and more appeal rests with Slaney Native (2.20). Jessica Harrington's runner was a solid third behind Joe Mac, the best two-mile novice in Ireland, last time out, and runs of a fair handicap mark.

With Haydock abandoned, the Cazale/Mildmay Chase at Sandown is the interest in Britain, as the Welsh National winner, Kendal Cavalier, attempts to confirm that form



Richard Guest and Carley Lad part company at the second-last fence in the Ladbroke Handicap Chase at Towcester yesterday as the race was won by Majors Legacy

Julian Herbert/Allsport

against Eudipe and Dom Samourai, who ran no race at Chepstow. That was an impressive performance by Kendal Cavalier, who carried 13lb more than his true handicap weight, but relished the deep ground and extended trip to outstay his rivals, marking him- self down as a contender for the Grand National in the process. The conditions today may not place such an emphasis on stamina, however, and while Glitter Isle (3.05) won only a two-horse race last time, he seemed back to his best and is weighted to go close.

**Edmondson strikes again**

**RICHARD EDMONDSON** yesterday extended his lead at the top of the Racing Post table for newspaper tipsters when Spa Hill won at 9-2. A 51-day stake on Edmondson's nap this jumps season has yielded a profit of £27.18.

It is difficult to suggest any reason why Hidebound should not win the Tolworth (Novices') Hurdle, a fact which will be reflected in his price, and Karraka (2.00), too, is difficult to oppose. There is more to consider in the getting-out race, though, not least some of the splendid names of the runners, which include Tellaporky, Royrace and I Do The Jokes.

The most likely winner though, is UPHAM LORD (nap 3.40), who found the ground too soft and the distance too far at Newbury last week. Today's conditions are ideal.

LORD HUNTINGDON's career as a trainer, which began in 1976, is over. The trainer who has been based at the West Isley stables of the Queen, will not be renewing his licence next month and had hoped to sign off with Browning, who is now lame, in today's Armagh Handicap at Lingfield.

"My first runner, Better Blessed, was a winner," Huntingdon said, "and my last two, Just Wiz at Southwell on Saturday and Violet on Wednesday both won as well. I'll have a sabbatical and see what happens."

Huntingdon's winners for the Queen included the Royal Hunt Cup with Colour Sergeant in 1982 and the Ribblesdale Stakes and St Simon Stakes in 1995 with Phantom Gold. He also saddled Indian Queen (1991) and Drum Tap (1992 and 1993) to win the Ascot Gold Cup. ■ Heavy rain has caused the abandonment of today's meeting at Haydock Park which was due to be televised by the BBC.

**Huntingdon bows out**

GOING: Standard.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low numbers best up to 7.

■ Equitrac surface, left-hand, sharp undulating course.

Course is of soil on B2028, Unifield station (serviced by London, Victoria) adjacent course. ADMISSION: One enclosure £10. CAN PARK: No. 13, rear entrance, rear entrance.

FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS

LEADING TRAINERS: G. M. Moore 63 wins from 627 runners (32%), R. Hobson 47-36 (32%), M. Johnson 44-303 (62%), G. Kellaway 41-296 (42%), J. M. Johnson 40-293 (32%), P. Evans 40-376 (30%), N. L. M. Johnson 38-324 (24%), J. Weeber 38-307 (21%), S. Sanderson 36-313 (15%), R. Cochran 32-325 (16%).

FAVOURITES: 455-2077 (33.5%).

LONG DISTANCE RUNNERS: Envirox (155) and Envirox (225), have travelled 210 miles.

SLUNKED FIRST TIME: Envirox (second), Sunbury (120).

GOING: Standard.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low numbers best up to 7.

■ Equitrac surface, left-hand, sharp undulating course.

Course is of soil on B2028, Unifield station (serviced by London, Victoria) adjacent course. ADMISSION: One enclosure £10. CAN PARK: No. 13, rear entrance, rear entrance.

FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS

LEADING TRAINERS: G. M. Moore 63 wins from 627 runners (32%), R. Hobson 47-36 (32%), M. Johnson 44-303 (62%), G. Kellaway 41-296 (42%), J. M. Johnson 40-293 (32%), P. Evans 40-376 (30%), N. L. M. Johnson 38-324 (24%), J. Weeber 38-307 (21%), S. Sanderson 36-313 (15%), R. Cochran 32-325 (16%).

FAVOURITES: 455-2077 (33.5%).

LONG DISTANCE RUNNERS: Envirox (155) and Envirox (225), have travelled 210 miles.

SLUNKED FIRST TIME: Envirox (second), Sunbury (120).

GOING: Standard.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low numbers best up to 7.

■ Equitrac surface, left-hand, sharp undulating course.

Course is of soil on B2028, Unifield station (serviced by London, Victoria) adjacent course. ADMISSION: One enclosure £10. CAN PARK: No. 13, rear entrance, rear entrance.

FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS

LEADING TRAINERS: R. Hollinshead (21) M. Johnson 18-19 (22%), P. Evans 18-19 (22%), N. L. M. Johnson 18-19 (22%), J. Weeber 18-19 (22%), S. Sanderson 18-19 (22%), R. Cochran 18-19 (22%).

FAVOURITES: 455-2077 (33.5%).

LONG DISTANCE RUNNERS: Envirox (155) and Envirox (225), have travelled 210 miles.

SLUNKED FIRST TIME: Envirox (second), Sunbury (120).

GOING: Standard.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low numbers best up to 7.

■ Equitrac surface, left-hand, sharp undulating course.

Course is of soil on B2028, Unifield station (serviced by London, Victoria) adjacent course. ADMISSION: One enclosure £10. CAN PARK: No. 13, rear entrance, rear entrance.

FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS

LEADING TRAINERS: R. Hollinshead (21) M. Johnson 18-19 (22%), P. Evans 18-19 (22%), N. L. M. Johnson 18-19 (22%), J. Weeber 18-19 (22%), S. Sanderson 18-19 (22%), R. Cochran 18-19 (22%).

FAVOURITES: 455-2077 (33.5%).

LONG DISTANCE RUNNERS: Envirox (155) and Envirox (225), have travelled 210 miles.

SLUNKED FIRST TIME: Envirox (second), Sunbury (120).

GOING: Standard.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low numbers best up to 7.

■ Equitrac surface, left-hand, sharp undulating course.

Course is of soil on B2028, Unifield station (serviced by London, Victoria) adjacent course. ADMISSION: One enclosure £10. CAN PARK: No. 13, rear entrance, rear entrance.

FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS

LEADING TRAINERS: R. Hollinshead (21) M. Johnson 18-19 (22%), P. Evans 18-19 (22%), N. L. M. Johnson 18-19 (22%), J. Weeber 18-19 (22%), S. Sanderson 18-19 (22%), R. Cochran 18-19 (22%).

FAVOURITES: 455-2077 (33.5%).

LONG DISTANCE RUNNERS: Envirox (155) and Envirox (225), have travelled 210 miles.

SLUNKED FIRST TIME: Envirox (second), Sunbury (120).

GOING: Standard.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low numbers best up to 7.

■ Equitrac surface, left-hand, sharp undulating course.

Course is of soil on B2028, Unifield station (serviced by London, Victoria) adjacent course. ADMISSION: One enclosure £10. CAN PARK: No. 13, rear entrance, rear entrance.

FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS

LEADING TRAINERS: R. Hollinshead (21) M. Johnson 18-19 (22%), P. Evans 18-19 (22%), N. L. M. Johnson 18-19 (22%), J. Weeber 18-19 (22%), S. Sanderson 18-19 (22%), R. Cochran 18-19 (22%).

FAVOURITES: 455-2077 (33.5%).

LONG DISTANCE RUNNERS: Envirox (155) and Envirox (225), have travelled 210 miles.

SLUNKED FIRST TIME: Envirox (second), Sunbury (120).

GOING: Standard.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low numbers best up to 7.

■ Equitrac surface, left-hand, sharp undulating course.

Course is of soil on B2028, Unifield station (serviced by London, Victoria) adjacent course. ADMISSION: One enclosure £10. CAN PARK: No. 13, rear entrance, rear entrance.

FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS

LEADING TRAINERS: R. Hollinshead (21) M. Johnson 18-19 (22%), P. Evans 18-19 (22%), N. L. M. Johnson 18-19 (22%), J. Weeber 18-19 (22%), S. Sanderson 18-19 (22%), R. Cochran 18-19 (22%).

FAVOURITES: 455-2077 (33.5%).

LONG DISTANCE RUNNERS: Envirox (155) and Envirox (225), have travelled 210 miles.

SLUNKED FIRST TIME: Envirox (second), Sunbury (120).

GOING: Standard.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low numbers best up to 7.

■ Equitrac surface, left-hand, sharp undulating course.

Course is of soil on B2028, Unifield station (serviced by London, Victoria) adjacent course. ADMISSION: One enclosure £10. CAN PARK: No. 13, rear entrance, rear entrance.

FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS

LEADING TRAINERS: R. Hollinshead (21) M. Johnson 18-19 (22%), P. Evans 18-19 (22%), N. L. M. Johnson 18-19 (22%), J. Weeber 18-19 (22%), S. Sanderson 18-19 (22%), R. Cochran 18-19 (22%).

FAVOURITES: 455-2077 (33.5%).

LONG DISTANCE RUNNERS: Envirox (155) and Envirox (225), have travelled 210 miles.

SLUNKED FIRST TIME: Envirox (second), Sunbury (120).

GOING: Standard.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low numbers best up to 7.

■ Equitrac surface, left-hand, sharp undulating course.

Course is of soil on B2028, Unifield station (serviced by London, Victoria) adjacent course. ADMISSION: One enclosure £10. CAN PARK: No. 13, rear entrance, rear entrance.

FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS

LEADING TRAINERS: R. Hollinshead (21) M. Johnson 18-19 (22%), P. Evans 18-19 (22%), N. L. M. Johnson 18-19 (22%), J. Weeber 18-19 (22%), S. Sanderson 18-19 (22%), R. Cochran 18-19 (22%).

FAVOURITES: 455-2077 (33.5%).

LONG DISTANCE RUNNERS: Envirox (155) and Envirox (225), have travelled 210 miles.

SLUNKED FIRST TIME: Envirox (second), Sunbury (120).

GOING: Standard.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low numbers best up to 7.

■ Equitrac surface, left-hand, sharp undulating course.

Course is of soil on B2028, Unifield station (serviced by London, Victoria) adjacent course. ADMISSION: One enclosure £10. CAN PARK: No. 13, rear entrance, rear entrance.

FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS

LEADING TRAINERS: R. Hollinshead (21) M. Johnson 18-19 (22%), P. Evans 18-19 (22%), N. L. M. Johnson 18-19 (22%), J. Weeber 18-19 (22%), S. Sanderson 18-19 (22%), R. Cochran 18-19 (22%).

FAVOURITES: 455-2077 (33.5%).

LONG DISTANCE RUNNERS: Envirox (155) and Envirox (225), have travelled 210 miles.

SLUNKED FIRST TIME: Envirox (second), Sunbury (120).

GOING: Standard.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low numbers best up to 7.

■ Equitrac surface, left-hand, sharp undulating course.

Course is of soil on B2028, Unifield station (serviced by London, Victoria) adjacent course. ADMISSION: One enclosure £10. CAN PARK: No. 13, rear entrance, rear entrance.

FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS

LEADING TRAINERS: R. Hollinshead (21) M. Johnson 18-19 (22%), P. Evans 18-19 (22%), N. L. M. Johnson 18-19 (22%), J. Weeber 18-19 (

## Solid evidence puts case for *Advocat*

The former top jump jockey  
Steve Smith Eccles analyses  
today's Ladbroke Hurdle



**Polar Prospect:** No horse has carried more than 11st 6lb to win this race so he faces a huge task off 11st 12lb.

**Archie Footage:** No worthwhile form this season.

**Advocat:** Solid form behind Blowing Wind at Cheltenham and Bellator at Aintree.

**Generosa:** Drop back to two miles will not suit this stayer.

**Shantarini:** Second to the mighty Istabraq last time and the form looks flattering.

**Penny Native:** Has no worthwhile recent form.

**Slaney Native:** Relishes soft ground and should go well.

**Gazalani:** No possible chance on current form.

**New Inn:** First runner in Ireland for Steve Hollings this season.

**No Avail:** Appropriately named.

**Vive:** With Charlie Swan on board, he has to be respected, but looks out of his class.

**Kamata:** On a hat-trick but will struggle to lower the colours of some better rivals.

**Arctic Weather:** Past it at the age of 10.

**Impulsive Dream:** Subject of an ante-post gamble, he beat *Advocat* at Leopardstown last March and money talks.

**Khairabar:** No worthwhile form in past four runs.

**Sawa-Id:** Game little horse with too much on his plate.

**Palette:** Soundly beaten by *Advocat* last time and little chance of reversing form.

**Gan-Saru:** Won at Punchestown last time and has each-way claims.

**Daraheen Chief:** Outsider who will do well to figure.

**Regency Rake:** Could lack fitness after a six-month break.

**Mykon Gold:** Backed from 25-1 to 16-1 this week and could get into the frame.

**Penny Native:** Has no worthwhile recent form.

**Slaney Native:** Relishes soft ground and should go well.

**Gazalani:** No possible chance on current form.

**Its Time For A Win:** Will not do his name suggests.

**No Avail:** Appropriately named.

**Vive:** With Charlie Swan on board, he has to be respected, but looks out of his class.

**Kamata:** On a hat-trick but will struggle to lower the colours of some better rivals.

**Arctic Weather:** Past it at the age of 10.

**Impulsive Dream:** Subject of an ante-post gamble, he beat *Advocat* at Leopardstown last March and money talks.

**Khairabar:** No worthwhile form in past four runs.

**Sawa-Id:** Game little horse with too much on his plate.

**Conclusion:** *ADVOCAT* has rock-solid credentials and should not be inconvenienced by the heavy ground. *Impulsive Dream* commands respect after ante-post support, while the lightweight *Mykon Gold* and *Slaney Native* could fight for the minor placings.

**Generosa:** Drop back to two miles will not suit this stayer.

**Shantarini:** Second to the mighty Istabraq last time and the form looks flattering.

**Black Queen:** Beaten by several of today's rivals and unlikely to reverse the form.

**Generosa:** Drop back to two miles will not suit this stayer.

**Shantarini:** Second to the mighty Istabraq last time and the form looks flattering.

**Black Queen:** Beaten by several of today's rivals and unlikely to reverse the form.

**Generosa:** Drop back to two miles will not suit this stayer.

**Shantarini:** Second to the mighty Istabraq last time and the form looks flattering.

**Black Queen:** Beaten by several of today's rivals and unlikely to reverse the form.

**Generosa:** Drop back to two miles will not suit this stayer.

**Shantarini:** Second to the mighty Istabraq last time and the form looks flattering.

**Black Queen:** Beaten by several of today's rivals and unlikely to reverse the form.

**Generosa:** Drop back to two miles will not suit this stayer.

**Shantarini:** Second to the mighty Istabraq last time and the form looks flattering.

**Black Queen:** Beaten by several of today's rivals and unlikely to reverse the form.

**Generosa:** Drop back to two miles will not suit this stayer.

**Shantarini:** Second to the mighty Istabraq last time and the form looks flattering.

**Black Queen:** Beaten by several of today's rivals and unlikely to reverse the form.

**Generosa:** Drop back to two miles will not suit this stayer.

**Shantarini:** Second to the mighty Istabraq last time and the form looks flattering.

**Black Queen:** Beaten by several of today's rivals and unlikely to reverse the form.

**Generosa:** Drop back to two miles will not suit this stayer.

**Shantarini:** Second to the mighty Istabraq last time and the form looks flattering.

**Black Queen:** Beaten by several of today's rivals and unlikely to reverse the form.

**Generosa:** Drop back to two miles will not suit this stayer.

**Shantarini:** Second to the mighty Istabraq last time and the form looks flattering.

**Black Queen:** Beaten by several of today's rivals and unlikely to reverse the form.

**Generosa:** Drop back to two miles will not suit this stayer.

**Shantarini:** Second to the mighty Istabraq last time and the form looks flattering.

**Black Queen:** Beaten by several of today's rivals and unlikely to reverse the form.

**Generosa:** Drop back to two miles will not suit this stayer.

**Shantarini:** Second to the mighty Istabraq last time and the form looks flattering.

**Black Queen:** Beaten by several of today's rivals and unlikely to reverse the form.

**Generosa:** Drop back to two miles will not suit this stayer.

**Shantarini:** Second to the mighty Istabraq last time and the form looks flattering.

**Black Queen:** Beaten by several of today's rivals and unlikely to reverse the form.

**Generosa:** Drop back to two miles will not suit this stayer.

**Shantarini:** Second to the mighty Istabraq last time and the form looks flattering.

**Black Queen:** Beaten by several of today's rivals and unlikely to reverse the form.

**Generosa:** Drop back to two miles will not suit this stayer.

**Shantarini:** Second to the mighty Istabraq last time and the form looks flattering.

**Black Queen:** Beaten by several of today's rivals and unlikely to reverse the form.

**Generosa:** Drop back to two miles will not suit this stayer.

**Shantarini:** Second to the mighty Istabraq last time and the form looks flattering.

**Black Queen:** Beaten by several of today's rivals and unlikely to reverse the form.

**Generosa:** Drop back to two miles will not suit this stayer.

**Shantarini:** Second to the mighty Istabraq last time and the form looks flattering.

**Black Queen:** Beaten by several of today's rivals and unlikely to reverse the form.

**Generosa:** Drop back to two miles will not suit this stayer.

**Shantarini:** Second to the mighty Istabraq last time and the form looks flattering.

**Black Queen:** Beaten by several of today's rivals and unlikely to reverse the form.

**Generosa:** Drop back to two miles will not suit this stayer.

**Shantarini:** Second to the mighty Istabraq last time and the form looks flattering.

**Black Queen:** Beaten by several of today's rivals and unlikely to reverse the form.

**Generosa:** Drop back to two miles will not suit this stayer.

**Shantarini:** Second to the mighty Istabraq last time and the form looks flattering.

**Black Queen:** Beaten by several of today's rivals and unlikely to reverse the form.

**Generosa:** Drop back to two miles will not suit this stayer.

**Shantarini:** Second to the mighty Istabraq last time and the form looks flattering.

**Black Queen:** Beaten by several of today's rivals and unlikely to reverse the form.

**Generosa:** Drop back to two miles will not suit this stayer.

**Shantarini:** Second to the mighty Istabraq last time and the form looks flattering.

**Black Queen:** Beaten by several of today's rivals and unlikely to reverse the form.

**Generosa:** Drop back to two miles will not suit this stayer.

**Shantarini:** Second to the mighty Istabraq last time and the form looks flattering.

**Black Queen:** Beaten by several of today's rivals and unlikely to reverse the form.

**Generosa:** Drop back to two miles will not suit this stayer.

**Shantarini:** Second to the mighty Istabraq last time and the form looks flattering.

**Black Queen:** Beaten by several of today's rivals and unlikely to reverse the form.

**Generosa:** Drop back to two miles will not suit this stayer.

**Shantarini:** Second to the mighty Istabraq last time and the form looks flattering.

**Black Queen:** Beaten by several of today's rivals and unlikely to reverse the form.

**Generosa:** Drop back to two miles will not suit this stayer.

**Shantarini:** Second to the mighty Istabraq last time and the form looks flattering.

**Black Queen:** Beaten by several of today's rivals and unlikely to reverse the form.

**Generosa:** Drop back to two miles will not suit this stayer.

**Shantarini:** Second to the mighty Istabraq last time and the form looks flattering.

**Black Queen:** Beaten by several of today's rivals and unlikely to reverse the form.

**Generosa:** Drop back to two miles will not suit this stayer.

**Shantarini:** Second to the mighty Istabraq last time and the form looks flattering.

**Black Queen:** Beaten by several of today's rivals and unlikely to reverse the form.

**Generosa:** Drop back to two miles will not suit this stayer.

**Shantarini:** Second to the mighty Istabraq last time and the form looks flattering.

**Black Queen:** Beaten by several of today's rivals and unlikely to reverse the form.

**Generosa:** Drop back to two miles will not suit this stayer.

**Shantarini:** Second to the mighty Istabraq last time and the form looks flattering.

**Black Queen:** Beaten by several of today's rivals and unlikely to reverse the form.

**Generosa:** Drop back to two miles will not suit this stayer.

**Shantarini:** Second to the mighty Istabraq last time and the form looks flattering.

**Black Queen:** Beaten by several of today's rivals and unlikely to reverse the form.

**Generosa:** Drop back to two miles will not suit this stayer.

**Shantarini:** Second to the mighty Istabraq last time and the form looks flattering.

**Black Queen:** Beaten by several of today's rivals and unlikely to reverse the form.

**Generosa:** Drop back to two miles will not suit this stayer.

**Shantarini:** Second to the mighty Istabraq last time and the form looks flattering.

**Black Queen:** Beaten by several of today's rivals and unlikely to reverse the form.

**Generosa:** Drop back to two miles will not suit this stayer.

**Shantarini:** Second to the mighty Istabraq last time and the form looks flattering.

**Black Queen:** Beaten by several of today's rivals and unlikely to reverse the form.

**Generosa:** Drop back to two miles will not suit this stayer.

**Shantarini:** Second to the mighty Istabraq last time and the form looks flattering.

**Black Queen:** Beaten by several of today's rivals and unlikely to reverse the form.

**Generosa:** Drop back to two miles will not suit this stayer.

**Shantarini:** Second to the mighty Istabraq last time and the form looks flattering.







Law changes and action replays have proved effective in stimulating more imaginative and attacking play

# No holding back regenerated game



**RICHARD WILLIAMS**

ON THE surface, or not very far below it, this whole business about shirts and elbows is to do with Arsène Wenger's boys getting their comeuppance. The Frenchman may have improved the dietary habits, training routines and general intellectual tone of a traditional English football club en route to the Double, but his Arsenal players are still the aggressive, rancorous mob that they were under George Graham. Or so the argument goes. A bit further behind the headlines, however, lies a much more interesting story.

When Patrick Vieira throws his arm back at the harrying Neil Redfearn of Charlton, or Ryan Kidd of Preston goes down in a heap in the penalty area after an exchange with Fabian Cabeiro, we are seeing something that may be not so much to do with individuals following a team's code of be-

*In the old days, a defender would hack down a forward and leave him lying there, in no position to react*

haviour, or with foreign players importing alien habits, as with an involuntary response to the tactical evolution of the worldwide game.

Think about it. The tackle from behind has been outlawed. Tackling from the side, by a defender manoeuvring himself abreast of a forward, is rendered vastly more hazardous by the likelihood that referees, observing Fifa's instruction to punish the slightest hint of illegitimate physical contact, will reward a mistimed effort with a yellow card – or even, if the offence takes place on the last line of defence, an expulsion. And the speed of the modern forward remains the defender's problem.

But defenders are there to defend. They have to come up with answers. And one solution, in a close-quarter contest, is a tug of the shirt, or an arm across the chest. Spectators hate it, perhaps because it looks like something any of us could do. Unlike a harsh tackle, even of the Norman Hunter variety, it has nothing to do with skill. Forward and midfield artists hate it even more.



The art of shirt-pulling, demonstrated here by Blackburn's Stephane Henchoz and Danny Cadamarteri of Everton, is not simply a modern phenomenon

**Unfriendly** for them, they are in a position to do something about it.

In the old days, a defender would knock down a forward and leave him lying on the ground, in no position to react with anything other than a shout of rage or pain. But a forward impeded by a hand or an arm applied to the upper body retains the capacity for physical response. And since the forward is reacting instinctively to a perceived injustice, he may not feel constrained to remain within the rules himself.

"If someone gets hold of you," Howard Wilkinson, the Football Association's technical director, said this week, "the only way to get free is to use your arms and elbows. You're only going to watch a boxer in a clinch to see that. What can be a movement to break away can

look like striking out." He paused, then added: "And those predisposed to striking out will see it as a bit of an excuse."

In the old days, a defender

would see it as an urgent new problem. "It was always there," Roy McFarland, the distinguished former England centre-back, told me. "But now, thanks to television, you see things you didn't see before. The technology has improved the spectators' position, if you like."

But McFarland, now managing Cambridge United, agreed that the defender's job has become much more demanding. "They have to be 100 per cent right when they're trying to make a tackle, rather than just 60 or 70 per cent right. So maybe they're trying to get themselves into the right position, and tugging or pulling to get there. In my day it didn't

matter so much. If we couldn't manage to intercept the ball, we could still go in from behind and kick the forward. Oh yes, make no mistake about that. We got away with murder."

The suggestion that shirts

were always tugged finds a supporter in Ray Wilkins. "You just see it more clearly now," the former England midfielder said, "especially in the Premier League, where TV examines every incident from so many different angles. Most of the time you'll find that both parties are doing the tugging or shoving." Yet today's defenders, he continued, are "petrified to hit anybody from the side or from the back – the good thing is that they're now staying on their feet and not going to the ground, which is an aspect of their craft that should be highlighted anyway."

The effect of this, he pointed

out, is to reverse the trend of

the 1970s and '80s, when the

game became artificially com-

pressed in midfield. "The game

has got very stretched again,"

he said. "It's become much

more difficult for coaches to

compress the game."

It is also more demanding on

the players. "You can't go out

with just a general pressing

game. You have decide, are we

going to press early? If we

aren't, when are we going to

press? So the responsibility

has gone much more back to

the players. Defenders have to

be more able to make decisions,

and their choices have to be

much more educated. It's the

whole business of when to tack

le and where. Can I get along

side, can I get in front, can I get

my foot across?" Individual

defending is something people

are going to be paying attention

to, as much as to individual attacking."

Ray McFarland took up a

point made recently by Joe

Kinnear, the Wimbledon man-

ager that coaches have to teach

defenders to intercept passes

rather than make challenges.

"That's dead right. In my day

the better player would always

be looking to intercept the ball.

I was lucky enough to play

with Dave Mackay, Bobby

Moore and Colin Todd, who

were all exceptional readers of

the game. What is the forward

going to do with the ball? If you

can read that accurately, you

can get in position to pinch the

ball without having to make a

tackle. That was the skill. And

that side of it has to be so much

better today because defenders

are worried today about chasing

forwards."

When the opponent is a real

speedster, an Overmars or an

Owen, the problem is even

more acute. "And in the Pre

miere League it isn't just

isolated players with pace."

McFarland said. "There's pace throughout every team. That means the game has opened out, it's more end to end. I've got three very quick forwards here at Cambridge, and I tell them that if they've got half a yard on a defender, to keep going."

"Look at the pitches," Ray Wilkins remarked. "They're bowling greens. There's no mud. Five or 10 years ago, half the pitches would have been mud patches at this time of year. And that's conducive to pace."

These changes, and others, have put unprecedented demands on the ability of defenders to concentrate throughout a match. "You can't knock the ball back to the goalkeeper and take a breather any more," McFarland pointed out. "When you do pass back, you have to be looking for a return pass from the goalkeeper if he's under pressure. The ball's in play the whole time. And allowing players to come back from offside positions, that's made a big change, because you can't push up and catch forwards offside so easily."

And to those who value the game's creative arts, the changes have brought a further bonus. "You see a lot more freedom and space in the middle of the park," Howard Wilkins pointed out, "and the

*'Individual defending is something people are going to pay as much attention to as individual attacking'*

players who've come into their own are people like Bergkamp and Zola and Zidane, who've exploited that space – people who can not only pass the ball but run with it as well. The perception of the midfield general has changed. You used to need someone who could put his foot on the ball and calm the game down, but now he's not so much of a sitter and a sprayer. He's playing further up the field. Looking at players from the past who would have benefited, you might think of Michel Platini. And you have to wonder how good Kenny Dalglish would have been in this environment."

It is, as Wilkinson observed, hard to find a genuinely sterile game these days. "It's making the game more imaginative," Ray Wilkins agreed. McFarland was similarly optimistic. "Think of the way Wimbledon used to squeeze teams," he said. "It was boring, negative and hard to play against. And those days have gone. 'Seen in that light, squabbles over who elbowed whom may be no more than a minor distraction.'

**WELSH CHALLENGE TROPHY**  
POOL 1: Pontypridd v Edinburgh Reivers (2.30) ...  
POOL 2: Elbow Vale v Gloucester (2.30) ...  
Newport & Shireham Falcons (2.30) ...  
**WELSH LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION**  
Young Munster (2.30) ...  
SECOND DIVISION (2.30): Cardiff & Wesley v Gloucester (2.30); Brecon Rangers v Old Credenhill (2.30); Skerries v Portadown (2.30);

**HOCKEY**

**SHAM CUP** Fourth round: Bowdon v Loughborough (2.30); ...  
**SHAM BEECHWOOD CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP** Preliminary rounds: (1) (2.0) (0.0) (Forest Gates, Nantwich, Shrewsbury, ...); (2) (2.0) (0.0) (Old Credenhill, Purley, Wimborne v Richmond, ...); (3) (2.0) (0.0) (Llanelli, ...); (4) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (5) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (6) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (7) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (8) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (9) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (10) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (11) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (12) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (13) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (14) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (15) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (16) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (17) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (18) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (19) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (20) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (21) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (22) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (23) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (24) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (25) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (26) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (27) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (28) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (29) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (30) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (31) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (32) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (33) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (34) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (35) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (36) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (37) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (38) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (39) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (40) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (41) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (42) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (43) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (44) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (45) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (46) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (47) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (48) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (49) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (50) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (51) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (52) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (53) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (54) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (55) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (56) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (57) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (58) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (59) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (60) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (61) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (62) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (63) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (64) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (65) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (66) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (67) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (68) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (69) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (70) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (71) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (72) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (73) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (74) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (75) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (76) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (77) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (78) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (79) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (80) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (81) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (82) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (83) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (84) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (85) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (86) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (87) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (88) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (89) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (90) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (91) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (92) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (93) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (94) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (95) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (96) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (97) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (98) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (99) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (100) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (101) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (102) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (103) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (104) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (105) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (106) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (107) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (108) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (109) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (110) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (111) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (112) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (113) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (114) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (115) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (116) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (117) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (118) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (119) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (120) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (121) (2.0) (0.0) (Wales v ...); (122) (

Pride is at stake for the Newcastle manager as former protege brings title-chasing Chelsea to St James' Park

# Past about to catch up with Gullit

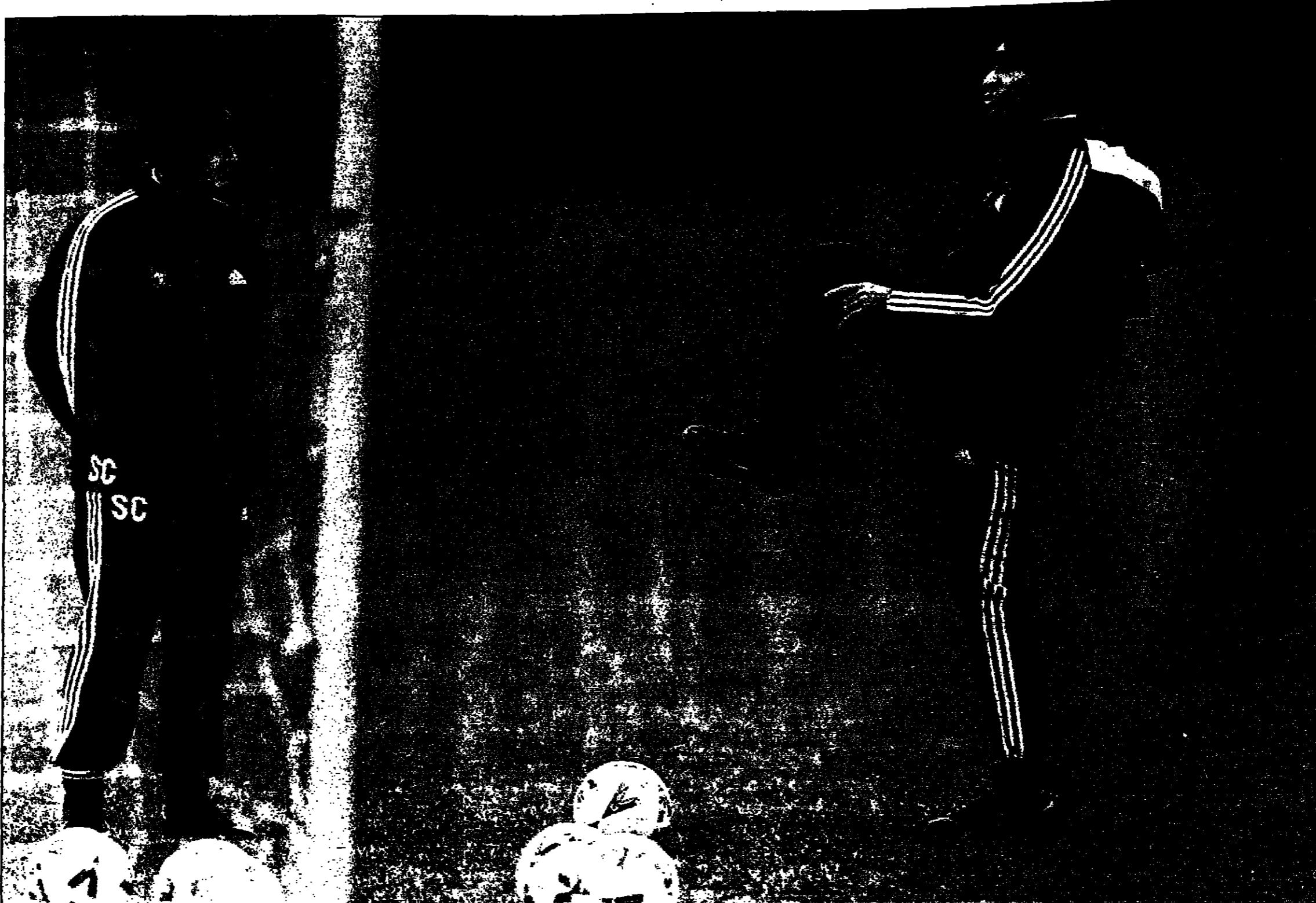
BY GLENN MOORE

IN KEVIN KEEGAN'S heyday as the manager of Newcastle United the players trained in front of adoring crowds so large that a mobile hot-dog van was in daily and profitable attendance. Yesterday, as Ruud Gullit put the current squad through their paces, there were just 18 supporters in attendance.

As a snapshot of the club's decline it was an eloquent picture but also a false one. Given that United have won two of their last 11 League games, and that it was pouring with rain on Tyneside yesterday, it was amazing that anyone came to watch at all. That one lad did so wearing little but a white shirt and black trousers begged belief. But then, as with so much to do with the put-upon Magpies these days, not everything in black-and-white makes sense.

The chaos in the boardroom is well documented. Already this season they have sacked Kenny Dalglish two games into a £15m investment, then invited back Freddie Shepherd and Douglas Hall, the shamed directors, provoking the angry resignation of Denis Cassidy, the club chairman.

In the dressing-room there is uncertainty. To the players, according to Warren Barton, "The first thing Rund told us was there was nothing wrong



*'I put Chelsea's team together. It is my vision, my ideas, they are still practising. I am proud of that'*

with the team. What was missing was confidence." To the press he said: "I have inherited a relegation team."

Yesterday he continued his "mission" to change that, introducing his third new signing to training, Louis Saha, on loan from the French side Metz. Gullit, who took over at the end of August, also admitted an interest in Crystal Palace's well-regarded young forward Matt Jensen and said it could take "a year" to get the team he wants. Five players have left and several more will follow, with the disaffected Alessandro Pistone and Dietmar Hamann likely to lead the exodus.

In the stands there is similar confusion. A crowd which has become, at times, tetchy and mutinous, reacted to last week's early deficit in the FA Cup tie with Crystal Palace by roaring the team to victory. And on the horizon is the potential takeover of the club by NTL, Hampshire-based media company involved in cable television.

Today, Gullit's new team face his old one, Chelsea, at St James' Park. Chelsea, who sacked Gullit in acrimonious circumstances in February, are second in the Premiership, Newcastle are 13th. Though

Ruud Gullit, the Newcastle manager (right), limbers up before taking his squad of players for a training session at the Riverside Complex in Chester-le-Street yesterday

Peter Jay

Gullit spoke carefully of looking forward not back, he made it clear he felt it was his team chasing the title, not Gianluca Vialli's. It had been "easy" for his successor, he said, as "my" players, tactics and rotation system were all in place.

"He has done exactly what I was trying to do, he tried to play 4-3-3 and lost all his games and went back to my system," Gullit added. "I also see he said rotation was a good idea. It is my vision, my ideas, they are still practising them. I put [Chelsea's] team together; I am proud of that and the success they've had. Now they have to go for the title that was jury is still out on the Dutchman but there is an undercurrent of

building or due to Vialli's own tactical nous and management skills? Similarly, are Newcastle's struggles down to Dalglish or Gullit - who inherited a squad containing 16 internationals?

At Chelsea, Vialli, crucially, has introduced Marcel Desailly and Albert Ferrer. He has also kept a largely settled defence. The team has subsequently become much harder to beat. Would this have happened under Gullit? At Newcastle the jury is still out on the Dutchman but there is an undercurrent of

optimism.

Mark Jensen, editor of *The Mag*, a long-established fanzine, believes the club is progressing. "I feel bringing Gullit in was a huge step forward," he said. "The players he brought in at Chelsea are the framework of their current team and I feel he'll do the same here: the board appears to have learned the lesson

from the Dalglish reign that you have to buy quality. I hope once the takeover is sorted out, and I suspect that it will go through, things will improve. It takes time - people have got to be realistic."

At times like this it is worth reflecting on how far the club has come. Without a championship since 1927, or a trophy since 1969, they were floundering in the old Second Division when Sir John Hall and his son, Douglas, persuaded Keegan to come back in early 1992. Had Newcastle not won their last two matches that season they would have been relegated instead of Plymouth Argyle. They were promoted to the Premiership the following season and, in the five years since, have finished third, sixth, second, second and 13th, the latter being combined with a first FA Cup final appearance since 1974.

That is the rosy view. The other notes that Keegan, after spending £80m, blew the title in 1995-96 while last year's League performances were dull and the Cup final display abject. Even so, to take the decision to sack Dalglish so soon after giving him £15m to spend was rank mis-management and his replacement by Gullit has yet to be justified. Gullit's big advantage, he freely admitted yesterday, is in the transfer market. "Players want to play for me because of the success I have had," he said. "So far everyone I have approached wants to play for me."

But signing personality managers, then giving them carte blanche in the transfer market, is an expensive way to run a club and Newcastle desperately need him to be successful. With Middlesbrough and Sunderland boozing they are in danger of becoming the region's third club.

Plans are underway to avoid this dreary prospect. Though

the takeover has worrying implications for the game in general - as with Manchester United and Sky - it ought to lead to an injection of cash for Gullit. This will ease the short-term burden created by the club's bold response to the block on building a new stadium on Town Moor - they have embarked on re-building St James' Park to lift capacity to 51,000.

As a consequence, Gullit's press conference - which yesterday attracted four television crews and various radio and written media - is held in the foyer of the local council's leisure complex, which shares the site. Thus, while Louis van Gaal holds court at the Non-Camp under photographs of great Barcelona triumphs, and a picture gallery featuring every one of the club's many Spanish internationals, Gullit faces the media under signs directing visitors to the kitchen and the public toilets.

Other expansion plans have also had mixed success, with both the academy for young players and the state-of-the-art training complex awaiting planning permission. The youngsters should be able to move in soon but the first team's new home is not much beyond the likes of Hall and Shepherd if the team are losing.

"Everything relates to what happens on the pitch," added Mark Jensen. "At Manchester United the off-field developments like the takeover are just as important because the team are still in the Champions' League. People respond to success."

How far away is this for Newcastle? Gullit, preparing the public for the worst, said yesterday: "I hope, in a year, this will be my team. I have just begun here, it is a big job. Chelsea are much further advanced than we are. They have been a long time together and have had success already. I do not have to prove anything in this match."

All the same, both he and Vialli would very much like to win it, and not just for the sake of three points.

None of this helps. When teams are struggling these are

the things players and coaches complain about. Similarly fans are quicker to object to the likes of Hall and Shepherd if the team are losing.

"Everything relates to what happens on the pitch," added Mark Jensen. "At Manchester United the off-field developments like the takeover are just as important because the team are still in the Champions' League. People respond to success."

How far away is this for Newcastle? Gullit, preparing the public for the worst, said yesterday: "I hope, in a year, this will be my team. I have just begun here, it is a big job. Chelsea are much further advanced than we are. They have been a long time together and have had success already. I do not have to prove anything in this match."

All the same, both he and Vialli would very much like to win it, and not just for the sake of three points.

## Fowler's Highbury stadium tour

BY GUY HODGSON

YOU CAN say what you like about the fixture computer, there is clearly a chip in there marked "mischievous sense of humour". Most weeks it throws up at least one game with undertones but today it has surpassed itself. The bytes are grinning like a toothpaste advertisement.

Just a normal day? Think again. Robbie Fowler going to Arsenal is enough to keep one's wry muscles in focus but in addition Martin O'Neill is going to a club he turned down, David Pleat revisits Hillsborough and Ron Atkinson's past and possible future will meet at Highfield Road. Oh, and there is the matter of Ruud Gullit playing host to Chelsea.

That is enough coincidences to make a detective novel totally implausible, but anything that can accommodate bizarre concepts such as the Nottingham Forest board, holidays for over-worked (sic) goalkeepers, £35,000-a-week wages and someone called the Football Association compliance officer is unlikely to have much grasp on reality.

Certainly there is a sense of the surreal about Fowler's position today. All week he has been denying reports linking him to Arsenal, so where does he get the chance to check out the facilities? That's right: Highbury. Someone is trying to tell him something.

To add a twist to the tale, Fowler is not guaranteed a place in Liverpool's starting line-up today, which goes to show what substitutes can cost these days. And it can be assumed a place on the bench that is unlikely to help the contract that Atfield has.

Arsenal, meanwhile, wel-

come Nicolas Anelka, who must wonder what the fuss is about, considering he has scored 12 League goals with the absent Dennis Bergkamp. Whenever strike force prevails it will surely be a rum, because both sides have three consecutive League victories.

Liverpool, it should be remembered, were the only team to complete the double over the two divisional winners last season.

While that will add spice at Highbury, the passions will not be at St James' Park where Newcastle versus Chelsea represents Gullit's first meeting with the club that sacked him 11 months ago.

At the time Chelsea's chairman, Ken Bates, showed typical diplomacy by saying: "We

are not prepared to pay a huge slice of our budget for a part-time playboy." It is probably safe to say that while his supporters cherish wins over Sunderland, Gullit would prefer to crush second-placed Chelsea.

The Londoners could go top, although it would involve their winning at Newcastle and Aston Villa drawing, or worse, at Middlesbrough. A few weeks ago the latter would have seemed likely but since Boro lost their 14-month unbeaten home record to Liverpool they have had three consecutive defeats.

At Goodison, Everton supporters can watch a side managed by O'Neill with the uneasy feeling that it might have been their own. He was the first choice as replacement for

Howard Kendall in the summer but when he preferred to stay at Leicester, Walter Smith was appointed. While no one can knock the sense he brought with him from Glasgow, some might like a few frills too. In the home of the 0-0 draw, it goes without saying today's game will be tight.

Which is not how you could describe Tottenham, who arrive at Hillsborough fresh from a 5-3 FA Cup win over Watford, which the latter would have seemed likely but since Boro lost their 14-month unbeaten home record to Liverpool they have had three consecutive defeats.

At Goodison, Everton

## Wenger unimpressed by warning from FA

BY TOMMY STANFORTH

ARSENAL manager, insists he will retain his right to freedom of speech despite the warning he has received from the Football Association's "sleazebluster" after he called Neil Redfearn, the Charlton mid-fielder, a cheat.

Wenger's remarks, which came after Patrick Vieira was sent off for an elbowing retaliation that left Redfearn on the floor clutching his face during a Premiership clash 12 days ago, infuriated the Charlton manager, Alan Curbishley and Charlton and do not feel I have attacked them."

Curbishley defended Redfearn following Wenger's comments but the Arsenal manager then pointed to statistics showing the Charlton player had committed more fouls than anybody else in the Premiership this season.

Graham Bean, the former police officer who recently started work as the FA liaison officer, contacted Wenger on Thursday with a clear indication that such comments run the risk of provoking a disciplinary charge. However, Wenger responded: "I don't know how he'll stop me saying what I believe - unless he puts me in jail."

Wenger, after watching a video of the Vieira sending-off incident, was adamant that Redfearn made the Arsenal player's offence look much worse than it was by going down with his hands held to his head, even though any contact was clearly made with his shoulder. Wenger said: "I was

"Anyone who sees the incident will know that there's nothing in it," Cott said.

Paolo Di Canio is expected to make his peace with Sheffield Wednesday and return to Hillsborough at the end of the month, his agent said yesterday. The Italian striker has already served an 11-match ban for pushing over referee Paul Atcock during a game against Arsenal last September. He has also been fined two weeks' wages for not returning to Wednesday after his suspension ended in December.

Ian Stott, the Oldham chairman, wants to become the new chairman of the Football Association. Stott is already a member of the FA's influential management committee and feels he is ideally suited to succeed Keith Wiseman, who was forced out over the "cash-for-votes" scandal.

Ultra-right Atletico Madrid supporters smashed windows and painted slogans on the door of the Spanish Football Federation headquarters in protest at the jailing of Jesus Gil, the club's president. Gil, who is also mayor of Marbella, was sent to jail without bail on Thursday, accused of illegally funneling town hall funds to Atletico.

## Sharpe may face Bologna for Platt

SAMFORDIA, THE Genoa club "supervised" by David Platt the does not hold the requisite coaching qualification, host Bologna in tomorrow's live Channel 4 game in Serie A. Platt, who signed Lee Sharpe on loan from Leeds on Tuesday, will be hoping for better luck than on Wednesday, when Samp lost 1-0 to Fiorentina, the league leaders.

The left-back in 14th place, placed two points outside the relegation zone. Sharpe is expected to make his debut, and that was no disgrace as Rome's

big spenders promise to be one of the major players in the battle for the Scudetto. Bologna, who have conceded just 12 goals in 15 games, will be without the defenders Michele Paramatti and Giovanni Bia, the Brazilian midfielder Eriberto and the winger Carlo Nervo. However, Giuseppe Signori, their top scorer with seven goals, will lead the line.

Other games: Cagliari v Roma; Empoli v Milan; Piacenza v Parma; Internazionale v Venezia; Juventus v Bari; Pergo v Udinese; Vicenza v Salernitana.

Middlesbrough v Aston Villa

## Weekend guide to the Premiership



THE FRENCH flavour of this afternoon's meeting between Monsieur Wenger's Gunners and Monsieur Houllier's Liverpool will be enhanced by the appearance of the home side's Nicolas Anelka, who passed a fitness test yesterday and will lead Arsenal's attack after two games out with a sprained ankle.

The Dutchman Marc Overmars replaces Anelka as the most serious injury doubt for Wenger, having had a reaction to a kick on the knee he received in the 4-2 FA Cup win at Preston on Monday. The Dutchman had to pull out of training yesterday and his manager said his chances of playing today were little more than 20 per cent. Portugal's Luis Boa Morte (left) will wait until this afternoon to see if he will be switched from his usual

go to one of two teenagers - Matthew Upson or David Grondin.

Liverpool's renaissance under Houllier faces its hardest test in recent weeks despite being unbeaten in their last 11 matches against Arsenal. The Reds, like their hosts, have also won three League games on the trot - temporarily silencing the critics who say they are too inconsistent to mount a viable title challenge - but must produce results against genuine contenders to secure a place in the same company.

Houllier will decide whether to bring back striker Robbie Fowler (right) to the starting line-up. The England forward, who is being linked with a move to Highbury, missed the Reds' 4-2 League win against

Newcastle through injury, but came off the bench to score in the 3-0 FA Cup win at Port Vale. Houllier must decide whether to start with Fowler and Michael Owen in attack or to keep faith with Karheinz Riedle. Captain Paul Ince is struggling with flu, but the Norwegian full-back Vegard Heggem should have recovered from the illness that kept him out of the Cup win. Stig Bjornbey is suspended, which gives an opportunity for Dominic Matteo or Steve Harkness to play at left-back.

**ARSENAL** (from): Marc Overmars, David Grondin, Matthew Upson, Paul Merson, Nicolas Anelka, Luis Boa Morte, Vlado Mitev, Dennis Bergkamp, David Seaman, Tony Adams, Nigel Winterburn and Sweden's Fredrik Ljungberg, as well as their two Argentinian recruits Nelson Vivas (suspended) and striker Fabian Caballero (flu), but will be buoyed by the recent resurgence in form that has seen three straight Premiership wins.

## MATCH OF THE WEEKEND

## Arsenal v Liverpool

Last season: 0-1

BY NICK HARRIS

## ...And statistics

1998 and all that

THIS WEEKEND sees the first full league programme of the New Year and Arsenal start 1999 as reigning champions not only of the Premier League, but of the top clubs' table for the calendar year of 1998. Although they started the year in sixth place in the top-flight and finished it in fourth, in between they put in 38 League games that saw them lose only five and concede a miserly 21 goals.

The calendar year table illustrates the dip in League form affecting Manchester United. In 1997 they romped home with the title by a clear 18 points from Chelsea. In 1998 they were 13 points adrift of the Gunners. Blackburn, however, show the largest dip fortunes. 1997 saw them equal-second on points with Chelsea, whereas in the 1998 table they languish at the foot of the teams that have played all the 1998 League football in the Premiership.

**Premiership / First Division table**  
Six clubs split their football last year between the Premiership and the First Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Middlesbrough	41	19	13	9	66	47	70
Bolton	42	16	14	12	68	60	62
Charlton	41	16	12	13	57	46	60
Nottingham Forest	41	15	11	15	57	55	56
Barnsley	43	14	11	18	55	64	53
C Palace	42	12	8	22	55	85	44

## Nationwide in 1998

Sunderland and Ipswich are clearly the Nationwide teams of last year. Sunderland have even managed an average of well over two goals an outing, Ipswich look to have the stronger defence although fewest Nationwide goals have been conceded by Gillingham of the Second Division, with only 29 in 44 games. The top two Nationwide teams in 1997 were Bristol City and Watford, who experienced contrasting form in 1998.

Watford have maintained a credible sixth place while City have sunk to 45th out of the 68 teams that have played all their 1998 League football in the Nationwide League.

## Nationwide combined table for 1998

The top 20 of the 68 clubs who played all their League football in the Nationwide League, irrespective of Divisions

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sunderland	48	30	13	5	103	44	103
Ipswich	48	30	11	7	84	33	101
Birmingham	47	23	14	10	77	42	83
Fulham	44	25	7	12	66	34	82
Mansfield	46	22	13	11	71	54	79
Watford	47	20	17	10	72	61	77
Gillingham	44	20	17	7	56	29	77
Scunthorpe	46	22	9	15	67	60	75
Grimbsy	48	21	12	15	55	47	75
Notts Co	44	21	10	13	68	53	73
Bournemouth	43	21	9	13	61	45	72
Preston	44	18	16	10	66	52	70
Huddersfield	47	20	10	17	63	75	70
Walsall	46	20	10	16	52	51	70
Cambridge	44	19	12	13	66	52	69
Brentford	43	20	9	14	62	57	69
Leyton Orient	45	18	14	13	55	53	68*
Bradford City	46	19	10	17	67	61	67
Wigan	46	18	13	15	58	52	67
Cardiff	46	18	13	15	57	47	67

\* had three points deducted, re-instated here

## Premiership table for 1998

Seventeen clubs played all the 1998 league football in the top flight

	Home	Away	Pts
Arsenal	38	15	4
Aston Villa	37	11	3
Man Utd	37	11	6
Chelsea	37	13	4
Liverpool	38	11	5
Leeds	37	10	5
West Ham	37	11	7
Leicester	37	8	7
Tottenham	37	9	8
Wimbledon	37	8	7
Coventry	37	7	7
Sheff Wed	37	9	5
Everton	37	5	9
Newcastle	38	8	4
Soton	37	6	2
Blackburn	37	8	3

## Nationwide combined table for 1998, placings 21 - 68

21 Macclesfield (67 points), 22 Colchester (66); 23 Shiffield (65); 24 Torquay (64); 25 Norwich (63), 26 Swansea (63); 27 Rotherham (62); 28 Tranmere (62); 29 Blackpool (62); 30 Chesterfield (62); 31 Bristol Rovers (61); 32 Luton (61); 33 Darlington (61); 34 Rochdale (61); 35 Stoke (61); 36 Wrexham (61); 37 Wolves (60); 38 Peterborough (60); 39 Man City (60); 40 West Brom (58); 41 Plymouth (58); 42 Shrewsbury (58); 43 Barnet (57); 44 Northampton (57); 45 Bristol City (56); 46 Stockport (56); 47 Burnley (56); 48 Scarborough (56); 49 Bury (56); 50 Oxford (55); 51 York (54); 52 Wycombe (53); 53 Millwall (53); 54 Lincoln (50); 55 Port Vale (48); 60 Hartlepool (47); 61 Exeter (47); 62 QPR (47); 63 Reading (47); 64 Carlisle (46); 65 Southend (46); 66 Oldham (46); 67 Swindon (44); 68 Hull (34).

Sunderland's Kevin Phillips, whose sterling work and marksmanship helped propel his side to be one of the leading teams of 1998



## Match of the year

The teams below for the Match of the year have been selected from players with either only Premiership experience or players with only First Division experience in the calendar year. The defences have been selected from sides with the tightest records; the midfielders from teams with the best scoring records and the strikers from those with the best individual scoring records. Number of appearances have also been taken into account. Special mention must be made of Ipswich team-mates Richard Wright and Matt Holland, who figured in every one of their club's busy schedule of 46 games.

Match of the year

The teams below for the Match of the year have been selected from players with either only Premiership experience or players with only First Division experience in the calendar year. The defences have been selected from sides with the tightest records; the midfielders from teams with the best scoring records and the strikers from those with the best individual scoring records. Number of appearances have also been taken into account. Special mention must be made of Ipswich team-mates Richard Wright and Matt Holland, who figured in every one of their club's busy schedule of 46 games.

Match of the year

The teams below for the Match of the year have been selected from players with either only Premiership experience or players with only First Division experience in the calendar year. The defences have been selected from sides with the tightest records; the midfielders from teams with the best scoring records and the strikers from those with the best individual scoring records. Number of appearances have also been taken into account. Special mention must be made of Ipswich team-mates Richard Wright and Matt Holland, who figured in every one of their club's busy schedule of 46 games.

Match of the year

The teams below for the Match of the year have been selected from players with either only Premiership experience or players with only First Division experience in the calendar year. The defences have been selected from sides with the tightest records; the midfielders from teams with the best scoring records and the strikers from those with the best individual scoring records. Number of appearances have also been taken into account. Special mention must be made of Ipswich team-mates Richard Wright and Matt Holland, who figured in every one of their club's busy schedule of 46 games.

Match of the year

The teams below for the Match of the year have been selected from players with either only Premiership experience or players with only First Division experience in the calendar year. The defences have been selected from sides with the tightest records; the midfielders from teams with the best scoring records and the strikers from those with the best individual scoring records. Number of appearances have also been taken into account. Special mention must be made of Ipswich team-mates Richard Wright and Matt Holland, who figured in every one of their club's busy schedule of 46 games.

Match of the year

The teams below for the Match of the year have been selected from players with either only Premiership experience or players with only First Division experience in the calendar year. The defences have been selected from sides with the tightest records; the midfielders from teams with the best scoring records and the strikers from those with the best individual scoring records. Number of appearances have also been taken into account. Special mention must be made of Ipswich team-mates Richard Wright and Matt Holland, who figured in every one of their club's busy schedule of 46 games.

Match of the year

The teams below for the Match of the year have been selected from players with either only Premiership experience or players with only First Division experience in the calendar year. The defences have been selected from sides with the tightest records; the midfielders from teams with the best scoring records and the strikers from those with the best individual scoring records. Number of appearances have also been taken into account. Special mention must be made of Ipswich team-mates Richard Wright and Matt Holland, who figured in every one of their club's busy schedule of 46 games.

Match of the year

The teams below for the Match of the year have been selected from players with either only Premiership experience or players with only First Division experience in the calendar year. The defences have been selected from sides with the tightest records; the midfielders from teams with the best scoring records and the strikers from those with the best individual scoring records. Number of appearances have also been taken into account. Special mention must be made of Ipswich team-mates Richard Wright and Matt Holland, who figured in every one of their club's busy schedule of 46 games.

Match of the year

The teams below for the Match of the year have been selected from players with either only Premiership experience or players with only First Division experience in the calendar year. The defences have been selected from sides with the tightest records; the midfielders from teams with the best scoring records and the strikers from those with the best individual scoring records. Number of appearances have also been taken into account. Special mention must be made of Ipswich team-mates Richard Wright and Matt Holland, who figured in every one of their club's busy schedule of 46 games.

Match of the year

The teams below for the Match of the year have been selected from players with either only Premiership experience or players with only First Division experience in the calendar year. The defences have been selected from sides with the tightest records; the midfielders from teams with the best scoring records and the strikers from those with the best individual scoring records. Number of appearances have also been taken into account. Special mention must be made of Ipswich team-mates Richard Wright and Matt Holland, who figured in every one of their club's busy schedule of 46 games.

Match of the year

The teams below for the Match of the year have been selected from players with either only Premiership experience or players with only First Division experience in the calendar year. The defences have been selected from sides with the tightest records; the midfielders from teams with the best scoring records and the strikers from those with the best individual scoring records. Number of appearances have also been taken into account. Special mention must be made of Ipswich team-mates Richard Wright and Matt Holland, who figured in every one of their club's busy schedule of 46 games.

Match of the year

The teams below for the Match of the year have been selected from players with either only Premiership experience or players with only First Division experience in the calendar year. The defences have been selected from sides with the tightest records; the midfielders from teams with the best scoring records and the strikers from those with the best individual scoring records. Number of appearances have also been taken into account. Special mention



# SPORT



GULLIT OLD BOYS' REUNION P30 • HENMAN TOPPLES TARANGO P27

## Warne tells of cash gift at casino

IT READS like a John Le Carré novel and, if the master storyteller were to use the hearing which began in Melbourne yesterday as the basis for his latest best-seller, he might well title it 'Batsman, bowler, bookmaker, spy'.

The role of Le Carré's hero, George Smiley, has fallen to the Pakistani Cricket Board Counsel, Ali Sibte Faizi, who yesterday resumed his difficult role of unmasking the truth behind murky allegations of bribery and corruption in international cricket. Faizi has travelled thousands of miles to interview the Australian cricketers Mark Waugh and Shane Warne about their being offered \$200,000 (£120,000) each by the Pakistani captain, Salim Malik, to throw matches. He is also questioning them about their decision to accept thousands of dollars from a bookmaker they met in Sri Lanka in September 1994, to whom they supplied pitch and weather reports.

Yesterday the plot thickened. According to the two men, the dealings began in a casino in Colombo in 1994. Warne said he was offered, and accepted, \$5,000 after losing money at the tables in the Sri Lankan capital, believing there were "no strings attached".

Waugh told the Pakistani government inquiry into match-fixing and bookmaking that he had

CRICKET  
By NICK RIPPINGTON

been introduced to a man called 'John' by his team-mate Mark Waugh, the prolific middle-order batsman. 'John' had approached Warne the next day and told him he had noticed that he had lost money at the casino and added that he was his favourite player.

Waugh told the inquiry that 'John' had given him an envelope containing the money, which he had at first rejected. 'He handed me an envelope. I looked in the envelope and saw that there was money in it,' Warne said. 'He said: "Please accept it as a token of my appreciation for you to take the time to meet me." Warne said he told the bookmaker: "I've got my own money, I'm fine, thanks."

'He said: "It's a pleasure to meet you, please take it. I don't want anything in return."

Waugh said he again tried to reject the money but finally accepted it when the bookmaker said he had plenty of money and would be offended if Warne refused the envelope. The bowler said he had never seen the man again, although he had been contacted by him several times with requests for information on weather and pitch conditions before matches in Australia.

'However I never gave any information that was not generally available to the public and indeed, as a senior Australian cricketer, I regularly provide a lot more detailed information about playing conditions to the media,' Warne said. 'I appreciate now that I made a mistake. At the time I was 24. I was naive and stupid. I regret my actions.'

Waugh told the inquiry that he was also paid to supply weather and pitch information about 10 times to the same Indian bookmaker. 'He offered \$4,000 for providing such information,' Waugh said. 'I told him that I was prepared to talk to him about pitch and weather conditions, but not individuals, team tactics, or team selection.'

Waugh said he had no knowledge of a match between Australia and Pakistan in Sri Lanka during the 1994 Singer Cup tournament being rigged. He also denied knowing anything about match-fixing allegations involving Essex and Lancashire in 1991 when Malik played for the south East county. Waugh said he was not with Essex at the time.

The inquiry was continuing today with evidence from Tim May, another player who accused Malik of trying to bribe him, and the then Australian team manager Alan Crompton.

There are sure to be more twists and turns before the final chapter begins.



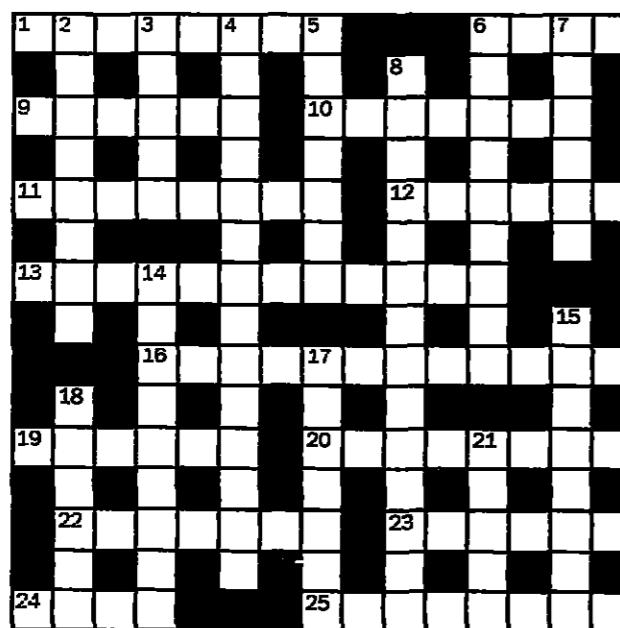
Queensland's Jimmy Maher avoids a run-out by John Crawley during England's 32-run win in Brisbane yesterday Report page 26; Photograph: Empics

### THE SATURDAY CROSSWORD

No.3815 Saturday 9 January

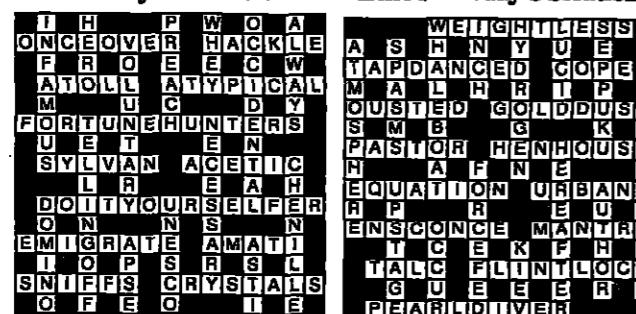
by Phi

#### ACROSS



Friday's solution

Last Saturday's solution



#### DOWN

1 Gather a Sunday School curtailed Mark (8)  
2 School days over imbibing quiet drink (8)  
3 Monarch, blushing, made a slip (5)  
4 Meal arranged for those retiring early? (2,2,3)  
5 Restriction thus restricts business qualification? (7)  
6 A lovebird possibly showing a green colour (5-4)  
7 Complain as the man ignores a couple of points (6)  
8 Noble Prince, and therefore male in orientation (4,2,3,5)  
9 French city with man entering outlying parts (6)  
10 Slews off sale price? (7,5)  
11 Traveller's guide - edition (English) carried by tradesmen (8)  
12 French city with man entering outlying parts (6)  
13 Disrupted another's supply of water (5,3)  
14 Dictionary contains word for "beer" in local parlance? (7)  
15 A copper gets blokes with astuteness (6)  
16 Dress up in some suits (4)  
17 Caught French friend only in an item of lingerie (8)  
18 Support and advice comes from this man of course (6)  
20 Disrupted another's supply of water (5,3)  
21 Drags painter round University (5)

The first five correct solutions to this week's puzzle opened next Thursday receive hardback copies of the Oxford Dictionary of Quotations. Answers and winners' names will be published next Saturday. Send solutions to Saturday Crossword, 6 Bonhill Street, London E1 4SD. Please use the box number and postcode and give your own postcode. Last two weeks' winners: M Mason, Beeston; G Handley, Cheshunt; G Lunt, Lichfield; H Ward, Radcliffe-on-Trent; D Kelly, West Malling; M Kucowicz, N16; T Starr, Cambridge; A Buchanan, Burnley; R Castell, Newton Abbot; P Jackson, WI.

## Uttley shown door as RFU sheds 30 jobs

### RUGBY UNION

BY CHRIS HEWITT

ROGER UTTLEY and Don Rutherford, two of the most influential figures in post-war English rugby, were among the big-name fall guys yesterday as Francis Baron, the new chief executive of the Rugby Football Union, ripped through Twickenham like a supercharged Jonah Lomu. Uttley, the England team manager, and Rutherford, the national director of rugby, saw their jobs disappear as Baron completed his first cost-cutting assault on the badged and blazered ranks of RFU officialdom.

Thirty of the union's 191 staff were either made redundant or railroaded into early retirement as Baron brought his hard-nosed business approach to bear on what he decided was a flabby administrative structure. Richard Field and Ken Whitehead, respectively director of marketing and director of support services, were also given the heave-ho, while David Fison, the financial director, announced he would leave later this year.

Baron's swinging cuts were

"It's something we are being forced to consider because of opinions that are being expressed behind the scenes in the negotiations for next season," he said. "We began this season knowing that, under the terms of the Mayfair Agreement, we would go up as a matter of course if we won promotion. As things currently stand, that will not happen. It is not something we intend to allow."

Back at Twickenham, Baron pointed to a series of debilitating multi-million pound losses as justification for his cuts. "The RFU lost £10.3m in the last two years and our projected loss this year has increased from the £1.4m budgeted to a likely deficit of £2.3m," he said. "There has been a management vacuum here and everyone is going to suffer a degree of pain."

Uttley said last night: "This is a huge disappointment. Having gone through the mill to sort things out at England level, recent results showed we were beginning to get it right."

Nick de Scossa, the Bristol chief executive, said negotiations were at an advanced stage.

Ulster's challenge, page 23

Oldham, Bury and Rochdale may unite

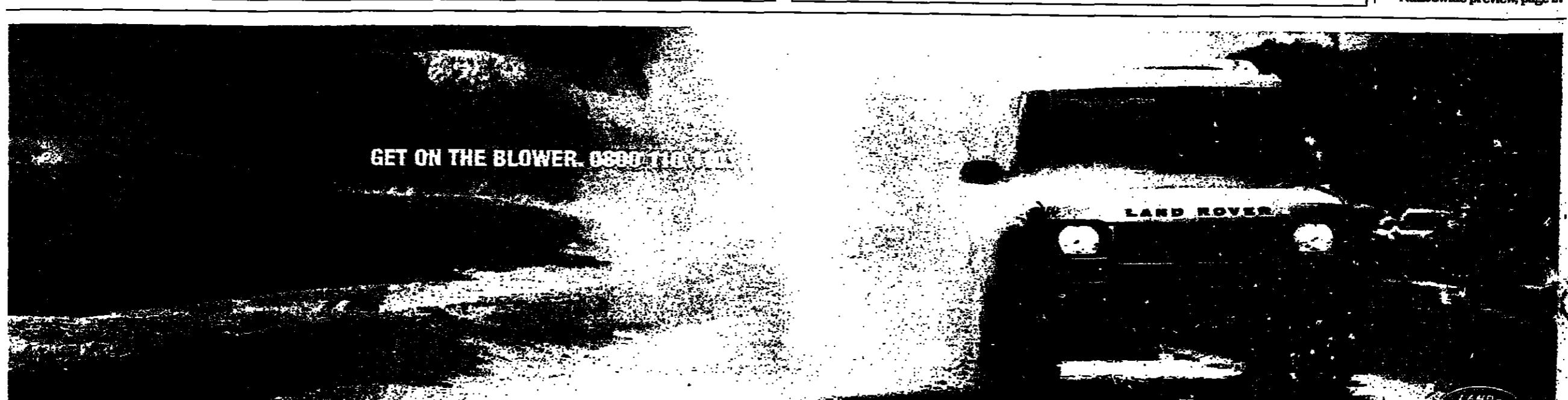
### FOOTBALL

OLDHAM ATHLETIC, Bury and Rochdale are holding merger talks about becoming one club, which may be called Manchester North End.

The radical move to pool resources, cut staff and play at a new ground was confirmed by the Oldham chairman, Ian Stott, on Thursday. All three clubs are struggling financially and Stott revealed that they are considering the plan as the only way forward.

"I have already discussed the possibility with my counterparts at Bury and Rochdale and they see the long-term benefits of such a venture," he said. "There would be horrendous problems, fans from all three clubs who would be opposed to the idea. But it is a question of survival."

The new club would be based at a new stadium near Oldham. Under current Nationwide League rules on mergers, the club would have to commence its existence in the Third Division. Nationwide preview, page 21



## WEEKEND REVIEW

COMMENT • ARTS &amp; BOOKS • COUNTRY &amp; GARDEN • TRAVEL

THE PLIGHT  
OF THE AGEING  
ROCK STAR

FEATURES, PAGE 9

BITING BACK  
AT THE  
WOOLF PACK

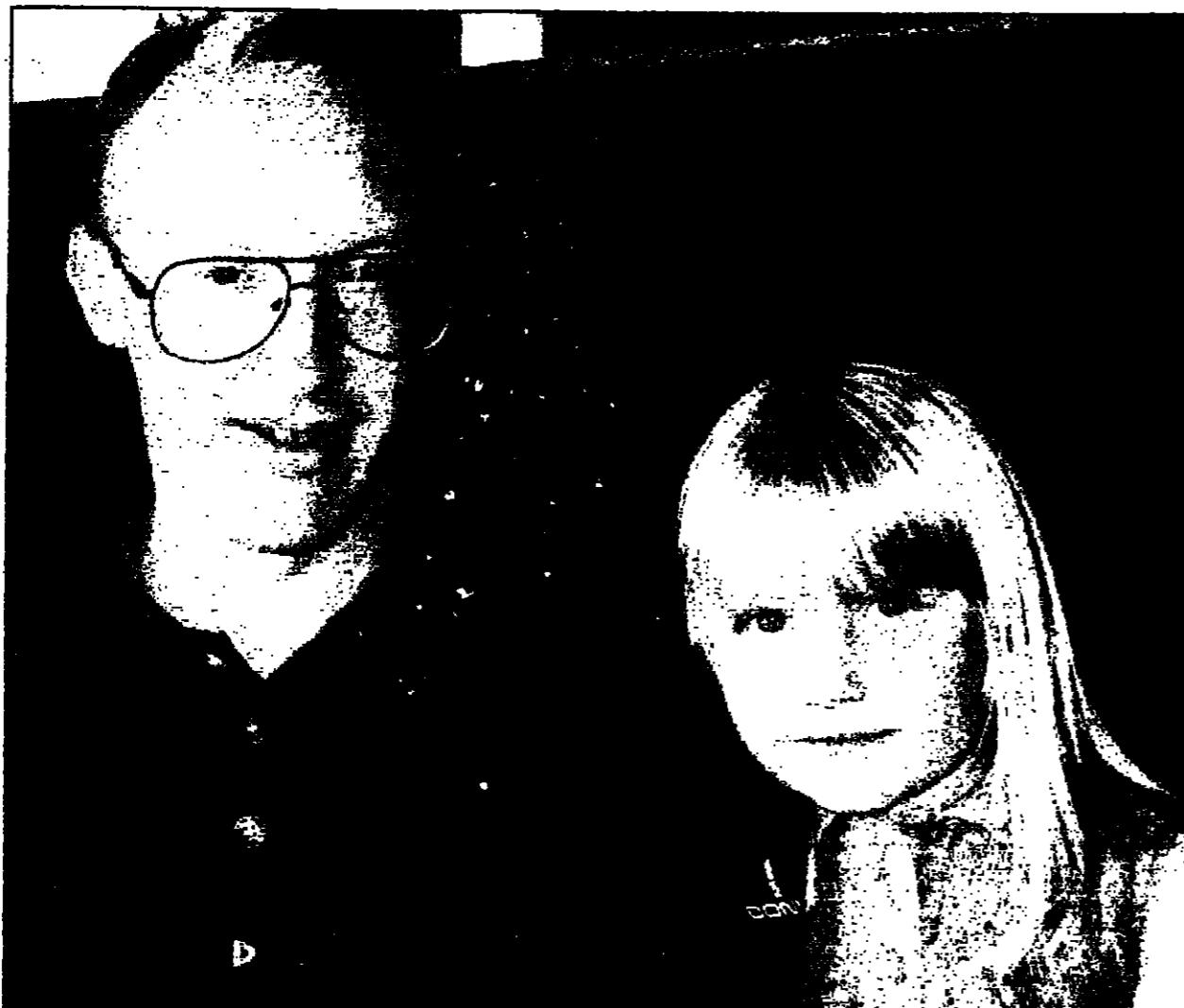
BOOKS, PAGE 15

HOW MUCH IS  
YOUR GARDEN  
COSTING YOU?

GARDENING, PAGE 17

FAR FROM THE  
MADDENING  
CROWDS

SKIING, PAGE 25



'A quiet, law-abiding couple': Jeff and Jenny Bramley with their foster children, Jade Bennett, 5, and her half-sister Hannah, 3

Dobson's

## Love on the run

The Bramleys, with limited funds, have escaped police detection for four months. It might seem astonishing – except when you consider who would turn in a childless couple desperate to keep the foster children they love

**FOOTBALL**  
OLDHAM ATHLETIC. Board members are holding meetings about becoming an off-shore club, which may be called the Greater North End. The radical move in personnel cut staff and players by 50% and was confirmed by chairman Ewan Thompson on Thursday. All the clubs are struggling financially and Stott revealed that he is considering the plan to consider the plan to move forward. He has already discussed the possibility with my own clients at Bury and Rochdale and they see the long-term benefits of such a venture. "There would be more fans from other clubs who would be more open to the idea. But it's a question of survival."

The new club would be based in a new stadium near Oldham, currently under construction. Nationwide coverage of the merger is set to commence in the Third Division Nationwide preview, page 5.

**S**ergeant Mark Nicholson points to two Pirelli tyres, so new that the thin rubber bridges between the treads are still intact and the treads themselves are clean. It is still a mystery to police why Jenny and Jeff Bramley, on the run for four months with their

foster children – Jade Bennett, 5, and her half-sister Hannah, 3 – bought the expensive tyres for the family's blue G-registration Honda Concerto, only to abandon the car in a residential street in York at least six weeks ago.

But the Honda, which was recovered last week and is now sitting in a lock-up at St Ives police station, near Cambridge, provides the first real trace of the couple who disappeared from their home in nearby Ramsey the day before they were to hand back to Cambridgeshire social services the children they adored, and had fostered for six months with a view to adoption.

Inside St Ives police station, in an investigation room plastered with already-fading newspaper cuttings about the Bramleys' flight, two large plastic bags of clothes and belongings left in the car boot, present more puzzles.

There is Hannah's pink anorak with fluffy, white-fake-fur-trimmed hood, and a similar winter jacket in maroon, belonging to Jade. Jeff, 34, and Jenny, 35, also left jackets behind. So slight and small is Jenny that hers was bought in the teenage section of a department store.

Why did they leave behind the clothes – along with children's car seats, an empty handbag and a stack of plastic-wrapped tea bags – when these did not figure in any description issued by the police? Officers were unable to establish what clothes the family had with them.

The car is the police's biggest – in fact, only – breakthrough. Remarkably, it sat in the same York street for five weeks before residents reported it to police, despite all the "tug-of-love" publicity and a description of the car – still bearing its publicised registration number – having been issued by police.

The Honda's discovery, and a "good" subsequent sighting of the family by a retired clergyman on the North Yorkshire Moors Railway last weekend, means hope for a police team hitherto bereft of leads. Seven St Ives officers have

scoured north, but excitement is mixed with trepidation. There have already been sightings from Ireland to Lanzarote. This one, like the others, could amount to nothing. For the Bramleys, a quiet, law-abiding couple described by relatives as "Mr and Mrs Average", have proved to be formidable fugitives, as elusive to the police as quicksilver: "I expect we would find them in a matter of days," admits Mr Nicholson ruefully. "In this day and age, in this country, it is amazing how they have managed for so long."

Just how the Bramleys are managing is the major puzzle. Though the couple are described as frugal, the £5,000 in cash they took with them must now be close to running out. However, they have yet to draw on further funds.

The police have suggested before that the Bramleys have not been caught because they are "so ordinary", easily camouflaged among the hordes of other thirtysomethings trailing round with small children. But the police are considering two other possibilities: that someone is ac-

ting them, or that they have such special needs were placed with novice parents. The social services spokesman will only say it is "not a perfect science". But the Reverend Jack Cooper, the retired cleric who apparently spotted the family on the Yorkshire steam train, adds to a picture of parental inadequacy. He described the children as out of control, and said that the Bramleys – and particularly Jenny – looked depressed, worn-out and beaten.

The public seems to prefer descriptions from the Bramleys' neighbours, of happy, well-cared-for children.

It is four years since the naked body of little Rikki Neave, who was on Cambridgeshire's at-risk register, was found in a Peterborough wood. After his mother was jailed for child cruelty, the council admitted that it had tried too hard to keep Rikki within his birth family. Another scandal occurred two years ago when the "career paedophile" Keith Laverack, a former

social services' career paedophile" Keith Laverack, a former

was always the strong possibility that they had fled the country. The other appealing option was that the couple and the children were dead.

For Ramsey has a reputation for losing people. Last century the ancient Fenland settlement was a thriving port. Left high and dry by time, it now sits at the edge of hundreds of miles of deep, water-filled drains, which prevent the fens being reclaimed by the sea. If a car leaves the road, by accident or design, it can be months before the vehicle and its occupants are recovered.

Dave and Jenny were born and grew up in Bury village, now an extension of Ramsey, where their father was sub-postmaster for 40 years. The small extended family is close and private. So it was easy to contemplate the worst when Jenny, who has never been out of contact for more than a week, disappeared without a trace.

Mr Bodie refuses to discuss social services' decision to remove the children, saying that criticism will have to come from Jeff and Jenny themselves. But he says that the couple, who had been married for 10 years, loved the Bennett sisters and were "devastated" when told that they could not keep them.

Mr Bodie, who has worked with people with special needs, says that while the children were "boisterous", they were not hyperactive or badly behaved.

"Jenny and Jeff are so quiet," he says. "So it was quite a contrast between them and the kids, but as a family group it seemed to work. The neighbours seemed to think so, as well."

He describes Jenny as bright but shy, like the husband she met when they both worked at the post office. Both, he claims, are logical and rational people. "You just would never have imagined they would do something as dramatic as this," he says. "But they found themselves in extraordinary circumstances."

He sympathises with the stress the couple have been under while trying to adopt the children. An attempt to challenge the council's decision in court failed; social services remained "judge and jury". "A friend of mine has been through this," says Mr Bodie, "and he says being under constant scrutiny from social services for six months was the worst time of his life."

Continued on page 2

BY MARY BRAID

Cambridgeshire senior social services manager was sentenced to 18 years for assaulting children in care. Those sympathetic to the Bramleys just assume that "the bloody social workers have got it wrong again".

The prevalent public feeling seems to be that the couple's flight is an act of love, not selfishness. But Mr Nicholson appeals to people – and particularly anyone harbouring the Bramleys – to put the children first.

"The focus of the story has become Jeff and Jenny," he says. "And, yes, it is a sad story. But think of the children; their upbringing has been put on hold." Jade was due to start school in September. Her uniform is still hanging, unused, in the abandoned house in Ramsey.

At his home near Colchester, Dave Bodie, Jenny's brother, a civil servant, says that the discovery of the Honda brought the couple's worried family some brief relief.

Like the police, the family had considered two explanations for the failure to trace Jeff and Jenny. With Felixstowe, Harwich and a handful of other ports within easy reach of Ramsey, there

The Royal Opera  
NEW PRODUCTION  
The Golden Cockerel  
Rimsky-Korsakov's masterpiece

22 December – 16 January  
in repertory

Conducted by Gennadi Rozhdestvensky  
& Vladimir Jurowski

Directed by Tim Hopkins  
Designed by Anthony Baker  
Lighting by Wolfgang Gobbel

A major work of modern 20th century  
theatre portraying greed, desire and  
destruction set against ravishing music  
and rich text

Tickets: £7.50 – £60  
24 Hour Ticket Hotline 0870 842 2226  
Ticket Office 0171 863 8000



Sadler's Wells

Sadler's Wells, Rosebery Avenue, Islington EC1

Open Season  
October 1998 – January 1999

Angel

PRUDENTIAL

INSIDE

Letters

2

Leaders and comment 3-7

Features 8-9

Obituaries 10-11

Arts

12-13

Books 14-16

Country & Garden 17-18

Travel 19-25

Listings

26-27

The week's TV 28-30

Radio 31

Today's TV 32

SEVEN PAGES OF  
TRAVEL

TOMORROW IN  
THE INDEPENDENT  
ON SUNDAY

## REVIEW



**Picasso as you've never seen him before: new pictures from his photo album**



**Jeremy Clarke takes his dog, Tonto, to find a French boar**

## CULTURE



**Asterix: can he save the French film industry?**

## REAL LIFE



**PLUS**  
**How to manage your New Year debt**

## MISSING

Jeffrey and Jennifer Bramley

The Two Sisters

Cambridge

Evening News

An appeal for the Bramleys' return

Continued from page 1

Like the police, Mr Bodle thinks it is possible that the Bramleys are being helped, though definitely not by a family member. And he agrees that public sympathy may be hampering the police investigation. He has been told that even former police officers have said they would not arrest the Bramleys, but would give them money to help them on their way.

However, he says, the only real solution is for the Bramleys and the children to return home. The situation is putting them and their extended family under great stress. "Every night you go to bed thinking maybe they will come back tomorrow."

Thick curtains are closed over the front windows of the Bramleys' home on the Maltings, a private estate of modest houses crammed too closely together. Only a few neighbours were aware of the Bramleys' desperate battle with social services. As one puts it, all they saw was two lively little girls with apparently devoted parents. Many locals share the public's ambivalence about the Bramleys' "crisis". One woman thought Jade and Hannah were children from a previous marriage, until she heard them calling Jenny and Jeff Mummy and Daddy. Though friendly, the Bramleys were private; most neighbours found out that they were fostering only after

their disappearance. She saw nothing to suggest that the couple lacked parenting skills. "We don't know all the facts," she says. "But the girls always looked happy and well looked after." And she adds: "What the Bramleys have done, well, it's not like a real crime, is it?"

One lawyer who specialises in child care cases wonders what will happen if the Bramleys succeed in staying on the run for a year, or even two. If the children are well and happy, and have become even more attached to their "unsuitable" foster parents, will the courts still consider separation to be in their best interests? But Cambridge social services points out that its decision

to remove the children was endorsed by the courts, and it will defend that stance. The children's current lifestyle, a spokesman says, can only be doing them harm.

If Jeff and Jenny are as logical as Dave Bodle says, they have probably concluded that eventually they will have to come home and hand the children over. Perhaps in their distress they are spinning out one final family holiday (with steam train trips and other treats), clinging hopelessly to moments, and children, they cannot keep. An act of love or selfishness? Probably a bit of both.

Mr Bodle asks the Bramleys to call the National Missing Persons helpline, 0500 700 700

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, London E14 5DL and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk (e-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address). Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

## Workers on call

Sir: Congratulations on the excellent article on call centres (Magazine, 2 January). It graphically illustrated the exploitation of workers in our "flexible" job market. The use of agency staff makes it possible for employers to avoid their moral obligation to attend to the welfare of their workers in terms of job security, employment rights and pay.

It is clear that telemarketing is a permanent feature of the way many businesses operate and people who work in these centres should be given permanent jobs with all the benefits that full-time staff are entitled to. The abuse of agency staff where the vast majority of employees are agency workers needs to be addressed in any "fairness at work" legislation.

Your article implied that agency staff are not entitled to join a union. That is not so. The Communications Workers Union (CWU) has a recognition agreement with Manpower plc and employees of other agencies are welcome to join.

CLIVE WALDER  
Birmingham

Sir: Is Peter Stanford who wrote your report the same Peter Stanford who spent the day in BT's call centre in Newcastle?

Certainly the Peter whom we saw confessed to a feeling of overall unease about what he saw as the grubby business of trade and commerce but then was honest enough to say how difficult he found it to reconcile that preconception with the bright, bubbly, enthusiastic and yes, disciplined people he came across at every level throughout the centre.

No doubt it is easier to recycle individual tales of woe from pseudonymous former telesales workers and previously published material but it stands reality on its head to suggest that our team at Newcastle is "working in a denigrated environment for low pay". For the record, advisers' average pay is around £9 per hour, with correspondingly increased rates for team and section leaders. Human factors are taken into account from the planning and design stages onwards. That includes the basics, from the eye-friendly lighting, comfortable chairs and plenty of space to the imaginative little things such as the non-spill BT cup which Peter gently mocks.

Peter, you said you were almost won over to a career in telemarketing. Perhaps another visit would take you that extra step. Certainly here you'd be working with a tremendous bunch of people in an exciting and growing industry.

KATHLEEN DOBIE  
Director  
BT Newcastle Call Centre  
Newcastle upon Tyne

Sir: The development of call centres and flexible working generally will produce an increasingly stratified workforce. While a majority of people will still enjoy tenured employment, there will be an increasing contrast with the lower-paid and less secure.

The United States has provided the model. There are more jobs, but also increasing inequality, uncertainty and long hours for the lower paid.

There are benefits for employers and employees in flexible approaches to employment, but these must not be at the expense of a new disadvantaged group. It is the responsibility of government to provide a strong enough framework to ensure that this



Welsh Portraits No 6: From left to right, Anne Rogers, Louise Fenn, Ceris Davies, Kathryn Game, Joanne Edwards  
Geriint Lewis

does not happen, which is likely to mean developing a European approach to labour relations.

JOHN ORFORD  
Manchester

## Rail disasters

Sir: Your report on the Virgin train that "ran out of puff" (4 January) is indeed farcical, but is not without precedent.

One day in January last year I boarded a Regional Railways North East train at Durham, bound for Newcastle upon Tyne, normally just twenty minutes up the main line. Two hours later I arrived in Newcastle, cold, enraged, and very late for work. The train had run out of diesel about two hundred yards after leaving the only stop on the Durham-Newcastle route, at Chester-le-Street.

The train, unable to reverse the trifling distance to Chester-le-Street to allow passengers to disembark, sat blocking the main London-Edinburgh line for nearly ninety minutes. Passengers were prevented by train crew (rightly, I daresay) from disembarking and walking back along the line to the platform, on grounds of safety. It occurred to me as I

stood shivering in the corridor – for there had been no seats available as a result of the usual overcrowding, and the heating had been switched off – that if Regional Railways staff were so incompetent as to let their locomotive run out of fuel, what was to stop them routinely neglecting other basic aspects of running a train service, such as rolling-stock maintenance and safety procedures?

At last a spare locomotive was sent to tow us up to Newcastle Central. It did not come as a huge surprise that the coupling gear on the front of our train was damaged to the point of uselessness, and that therefore the towing engine would have to go first to Durham and return to push us to Newcastle from the rear. This added an extra half-hour to our journey time.

DR DOMINIC WATT

Mr Steel and his colleagues in the BBC complaints department apparently live in a Reithian world where mothers don't have to work, fathers are always home in time for tea and all under 16-year-olds are safely tucked up in bed at half past eight. The BBC expect parents to share responsibility at all times of the day for assessing whether or not programmes should be seen by younger viewers.

Mr Steel and his colleagues in the BBC complaints department apparently live in a Reithian world where mothers don't have to work, fathers are always home in time for tea and all under 16-year-olds are safely tucked up in bed at half past eight. The BBC expect parents to share responsibility at all times of the day for assessing whether or not programmes should be seen by younger viewers.

Mr Steel and his colleagues in the BBC complaints department apparently live in a Reithian world where mothers don't have to work, fathers are always home in time for tea and all under 16-year-olds are safely tucked up in bed at half past eight. The BBC expect parents to share responsibility at all times of the day for assessing whether or not programmes should be seen by younger viewers.

Mr Steel and his colleagues in the BBC complaints department apparently live in a Reithian world where mothers don't have to work, fathers are always home in time for tea and all under 16-year-olds are safely tucked up in bed at half past eight. The BBC expect parents to share responsibility at all times of the day for assessing whether or not programmes should be seen by younger viewers.

Mr Steel and his colleagues in the BBC complaints department apparently live in a Reithian world where mothers don't have to work, fathers are always home in time for tea and all under 16-year-olds are safely tucked up in bed at half past eight. The BBC expect parents to share responsibility at all times of the day for assessing whether or not programmes should be seen by younger viewers.

Mr Steel and his colleagues in the BBC complaints department apparently live in a Reithian world where mothers don't have to work, fathers are always home in time for tea and all under 16-year-olds are safely tucked up in bed at half past eight. The BBC expect parents to share responsibility at all times of the day for assessing whether or not programmes should be seen by younger viewers.

Mr Steel and his colleagues in the BBC complaints department apparently live in a Reithian world where mothers don't have to work, fathers are always home in time for tea and all under 16-year-olds are safely tucked up in bed at half past eight. The BBC expect parents to share responsibility at all times of the day for assessing whether or not programmes should be seen by younger viewers.

Mr Steel and his colleagues in the BBC complaints department apparently live in a Reithian world where mothers don't have to work, fathers are always home in time for tea and all under 16-year-olds are safely tucked up in bed at half past eight. The BBC expect parents to share responsibility at all times of the day for assessing whether or not programmes should be seen by younger viewers.

Mr Steel and his colleagues in the BBC complaints department apparently live in a Reithian world where mothers don't have to work, fathers are always home in time for tea and all under 16-year-olds are safely tucked up in bed at half past eight. The BBC expect parents to share responsibility at all times of the day for assessing whether or not programmes should be seen by younger viewers.

Mr Steel and his colleagues in the BBC complaints department apparently live in a Reithian world where mothers don't have to work, fathers are always home in time for tea and all under 16-year-olds are safely tucked up in bed at half past eight. The BBC expect parents to share responsibility at all times of the day for assessing whether or not programmes should be seen by younger viewers.

Mr Steel and his colleagues in the BBC complaints department apparently live in a Reithian world where mothers don't have to work, fathers are always home in time for tea and all under 16-year-olds are safely tucked up in bed at half past eight. The BBC expect parents to share responsibility at all times of the day for assessing whether or not programmes should be seen by younger viewers.

Mr Steel and his colleagues in the BBC complaints department apparently live in a Reithian world where mothers don't have to work, fathers are always home in time for tea and all under 16-year-olds are safely tucked up in bed at half past eight. The BBC expect parents to share responsibility at all times of the day for assessing whether or not programmes should be seen by younger viewers.

Mr Steel and his colleagues in the BBC complaints department apparently live in a Reithian world where mothers don't have to work, fathers are always home in time for tea and all under 16-year-olds are safely tucked up in bed at half past eight. The BBC expect parents to share responsibility at all times of the day for assessing whether or not programmes should be seen by younger viewers.

Mr Steel and his colleagues in the BBC complaints department apparently live in a Reithian world where mothers don't have to work, fathers are always home in time for tea and all under 16-year-olds are safely tucked up in bed at half past eight. The BBC expect parents to share responsibility at all times of the day for assessing whether or not programmes should be seen by younger viewers.

Mr Steel and his colleagues in the BBC complaints department apparently live in a Reithian world where mothers don't have to work, fathers are always home in time for tea and all under 16-year-olds are safely tucked up in bed at half past eight. The BBC expect parents to share responsibility at all times of the day for assessing whether or not programmes should be seen by younger viewers.

Mr Steel and his colleagues in the BBC complaints department apparently live in a Reithian world where mothers don't have to work, fathers are always home in time for tea and all under 16-year-olds are safely tucked up in bed at half past eight. The BBC expect parents to share responsibility at all times of the day for assessing whether or not programmes should be seen by younger viewers.

Mr Steel and his colleagues in the BBC complaints department apparently live in a Reithian world where mothers don't have to work, fathers are always home in time for tea and all under 16-year-olds are safely tucked up in bed at half past eight. The BBC expect parents to share responsibility at all times of the day for assessing whether or not programmes should be seen by younger viewers.

Mr Steel and his colleagues in the BBC complaints department apparently live in a Reithian world where mothers don't have to work, fathers are always home in time for tea and all under 16-year-olds are safely tucked up in bed at half past eight. The BBC expect parents to share responsibility at all times of the day for assessing whether or not programmes should be seen by younger viewers.

Mr Steel and his colleagues in the BBC complaints department apparently live in a Reithian world where mothers don't have to work, fathers are always home in time for tea and all under 16-year-olds are safely tucked up in bed at half past eight. The BBC expect parents to share responsibility at all times of the day for assessing whether or not programmes should be seen by younger viewers.

Mr Steel and his colleagues in the BBC complaints department apparently live in a Reithian world where mothers don't have to work, fathers are always home in time for tea and all under 16-year-olds are safely tucked up in bed at half past eight. The BBC expect parents to share responsibility at all times of the day for assessing whether or not programmes should be seen by younger viewers.

Mr Steel and his colleagues in the BBC complaints department apparently live in a Reithian world where mothers don't have to work, fathers are always home in time for tea and all under 16-year-olds are safely tucked up in bed at half past eight. The BBC expect parents to share responsibility at all times of the day for assessing whether or not programmes should be seen by younger viewers.

Mr Steel and his colleagues in the BBC complaints department apparently live in a Reithian world where mothers don't have to work, fathers are always home in time for tea and all under 16-year-olds are safely tucked up in bed at half past eight. The BBC expect parents to share responsibility at all times of the day for assessing whether or not programmes should be seen by younger viewers.

Mr Steel and his colleagues in the BBC complaints department apparently live in a Reithian world where mothers don't have to work, fathers are always home in time for tea and all under 16-year-olds are safely tucked up in bed at half past eight. The BBC expect parents to share responsibility at all times of the day for assessing whether or not programmes should be seen by younger viewers.

Mr Steel and his colleagues in the BBC complaints department apparently live in a Reithian world where mothers don't have to work, fathers are always home in time for tea and all under 16-year-olds are safely tucked up in bed at half past eight. The BBC expect parents to share responsibility at all times of the day for assessing whether or not programmes should be seen by younger viewers.

Mr Steel and his colleagues in the BBC complaints department apparently live in a Reithian world where mothers don't have to work, fathers are always home in time for tea and all under 16-year-olds are safely tucked up in bed at half past eight. The BBC expect parents to share responsibility at all times of the day for assessing whether or not programmes should be seen by younger viewers.

Mr Steel and his colleagues in the BBC complaints department apparently live in a Reithian world where mothers don't have to work, fathers are always home in time for tea and all under 16-year-olds are safely tucked up in bed at half past eight. The BBC expect parents to share responsibility at all times of the day for assessing whether or not programmes should be seen by younger viewers.

Mr Steel and his colleagues in the BBC complaints department apparently live in a Reithian world where mothers don't have to work, fathers are always home in time for tea and all under 16-year-olds are safely tucked up in bed at half past eight. The BBC expect parents to share responsibility at all times of the day for assessing whether or not programmes should be seen by younger viewers.

Mr Steel and his colleagues in the BBC complaints department apparently live in a Reithian world where mothers don't have to work, fathers are always home in time for tea and all under 16-year-olds are safely tucked up in bed at half past eight. The BBC expect parents to share responsibility at all times of the day for assessing whether or not programmes should be seen by younger viewers.

Mr Steel and his colleagues in the BBC complaints department apparently live in a Reithian world where mothers don't have to work, fathers are always home in time for tea and all under 16-year-olds are safely tucked up in bed at half past eight. The BBC expect parents to share responsibility at all times of the day for assessing whether or not programmes should be seen by younger viewers.

Mr Steel and his colleagues in the BBC complaints department apparently live in a Reithian world where mothers don't have to work, fathers are always home in time for tea and all under 16-year-olds are safely tucked up in bed at half past eight. The BBC expect parents to share responsibility at all times of the day for assessing whether or not programmes should be seen by younger viewers.

Mr Steel and his colleagues in the BBC complaints department apparently live in a Reithian world where mothers don't have to work, fathers are always home in time for tea and all under 16-year-olds are safely tucked up in bed at half past eight. The BBC expect parents to share responsibility at all times of the day for assessing whether or not programmes should be seen by younger viewers.

Mr Steel and his colleagues in the BBC complaints department apparently live in a Reithian world where mothers don't have to work, fathers are always home in time for tea and all under 16-year-olds are safely tucked up in bed at half past eight. The BBC expect parents to share responsibility at all times of the day for assessing whether or not programmes should be seen by younger viewers.

Mr Steel and his colleagues in the BBC complaints department apparently live in a Reithian world where mothers don't have to work, fathers are always home in time for tea and all under 16-year-olds are safely tucked up in bed at half past eight. The BBC expect parents to share responsibility at all times of the day for assessing whether or not programmes should be seen by younger viewers.

Mr Steel and his colleagues in the BBC complaints department apparently live in a Reithian world where mothers don't have to work, fathers are always home in time for tea and all under 16-year-olds are safely tucked up in bed at half past eight. The BBC expect parents to share responsibility at all times of the day for assessing whether or not programmes should be seen by younger viewers.

Mr Steel and his colleagues in the BBC complaints department apparently live in a Reithian world where mothers don't have to work, fathers are always home in time for tea and all under 16-year-olds are safely tucked up in bed at half past eight. The BBC expect parents to share responsibility at all times of the day for assessing whether or not programmes should be seen by younger viewers.

Mr Steel and his colleagues in the BBC complaints department apparently live in a Reithian world where mothers don't have to work, fathers are always home in time for tea and all under 16-year-olds are safely tucked up in bed at half past eight. The BBC expect parents to share responsibility at all times of the day for assessing whether or not programmes should be seen by younger viewers.

Mr Steel and his colleagues in the BBC complaints department apparently live in a

## THE INDEPENDENT

1 CANADA SQUARE, CANARY WHARF, LONDON E14 5DL TELEPHONE: 0171 293 2000 OR 0171 345 2000 FAX: 0171 293 2435 OR 0171 345 2435  
THE INDEPENDENT ON THE INTERNET: WWW.INDEPENDENT.CO.UKThe Government's  
risky gap between  
rhetoric and reality

THE "LINE in the sand" is one of the great malapropisms of contemporary British politics. John Major was forever trying to "draw a line under" his troubles only to have another lorry-load of ordure tipped over him. But he and his spinners sometimes got their Gulf war metaphors confused and said he was drawing a line in the sand - which hardly gave the intended impression of finality.

This week Tony Blair drew his line - on a beach in the Seychelles. A resolute article in yesterday's *Independent*, a no-nonsense speech in South Africa, and a tale of everyday muscular heroism rescuing a Danish holiday-maker from the treacherous currents, were designed to present the Prime Minister in his full "strong leader" regalia. Heavy casualties have been sustained, but the names of Mandelson, Robinson and Whelehan have been inscribed on a wooden panel headed "They gave their all for New Labour", and the strong leader carries on, sadder but undaunted.

The tone is now like a comic-strip Churchill: "There are bound to be setbacks. We will face them, determinedly. There are bound to be attacks. We will respond to them, robustly." And there was one wonderfully double-edged sentence in yesterday's article: "We will continue to be for the future, not for the past." The trouble is that the past ain't what it used to be: the past used to mean the Conservatives and Old Labour; now New Labour has a past as well, and Mr Blair wants to distance himself from the unhappy bits of it, and especially the events of the past three weeks.

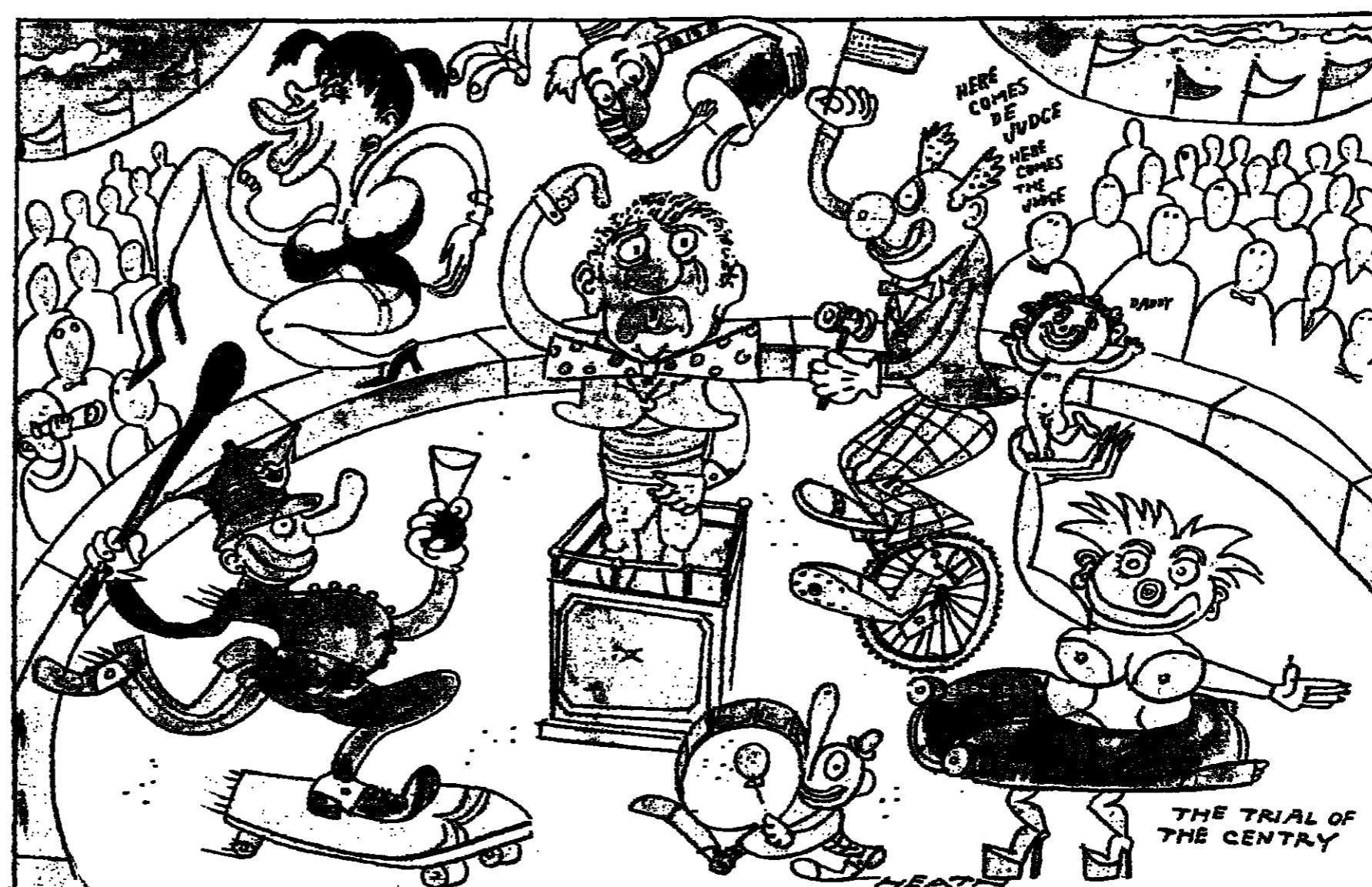
The Affair of Mr Mandelson's Mortgage cannot be quite so easily pushed into the dusty filing cabinet marked "Historical Interest Only", despite the British building society's convenient absolution of the former Trade and Industry Secretary yesterday. For one thing, Mr Mandelson, in his attempt to put the affair behind him, said he wanted to get on with "rebuilding my political career".

It would be rash to predict Mr Mandelson's early return to the Cabinet, but it seems unlikely that Mr Blair will not find some use for his undoubted skills. Which means that questions about his conduct, and about his understanding of the central concept in public probity, the appearance of a conflict of interest, continue to be pertinent.

The damage done to the Government depends on the size of the gap between rhetoric and reality: they are the anode and the cathode and, when the electricity of public opinion is passed through them, the wider the gap the bigger the spark and the more destructive the explosion.

Mr Blair promised that his Government would be different, and he promised that things would be better. It may be unfair to discern no difference between Labour and its Tory predecessors, but the change has not been big enough or "radical" enough to justify New Labour's rhetoric.

Let us retain a sense of perspective. "Labour lead slumps to 23 points" is hardly the kind of headline which warns Mr Blair of impending meltdown. But *The Independent's* soundings among our panel of former Tory swing voters in Redditch, which we report today, suggest that the early cracks may run deep.



The Prime Minister yesterday pledged to concentrate on the "big picture" rather than scandal and gossip, but it is precisely in the areas of education and health that "Mondoe man and woman" feel most let down. On the National Health Service, the Government has been on the defensive from the day after the last election, when it emerged that its apparently modest aim of cutting waiting-lists below the level it had inherited would be difficult and expensive to meet. To be sure, the flu outbreak is being used as a lever by doctors in advance of the pay review - there is no reason, for example, to care whether refrigerated lorries have to be used briefly as temporary mortuaries.

But the same has happened in education, where an apparently modest "early" promise to cut infant class sizes will probably not be fulfilled in time for the next election. The amount of change visible to parents collecting their children from school, therefore, fails to match up to the impression that "smaller class sizes" would be the first step to educational nirvana.

All this could add to the impression of a government at the mercy of events, trailing behind Europe and powerless to influence the economy.

There has long been a contradiction between the Prime Minister's New Jerusalem style and his "Rome Wasn't Built in a Day" mode. If Mr Blair really wants to draw a line under the explosions of the past few weeks - and the collateral damage caused - then he needs to drop Jerusalem and adjust his rhetoric to what can realistically be delivered.

The fact that a quarter of Labour's MPs are women, however, has had disappointingly little effect on the male-dominated and family-unfriendly House of Commons. True, the Labour benches and even the Cabinet look as though they are inhabited by relatively normal people, while the Tory side and the Shadow Cabinet look like the boys and prefects of a single-sex school - albeit with a

The Tories must  
feminise their party

GETTING MORE women into Parliament could be the Conservative Party's only hope. After all, as the old feminist slogan had it, they could hardly make a worse job of it than the men, could they? There are only 14 women Tory MPs, and they include all the party's best performers: Ann Widdecombe, Theresa May, Angela Brownrigg, Gillian Shephard and Teresa Gorman. So somebody needs to find the shrewd Fiona Jenkins a by-election to fight, urgently. Then she and Miss Widdecombe can fight a leadership contest.

The problem is, how to do it? The Labour Party did it the best way, which was to go for a strong dose of positive discrimination and have it struck down by the courts after large numbers of women had been selected. That meant that the party did not - in the end - have to defend the indefensible, namely the exclusion of men on the grounds of their sex, and yet ended up with the right outcome in the form of 101 female MPs.

The fact that a quarter of Labour's MPs are women, however, has had disappointingly little effect on the male-dominated and family-unfriendly House of Commons. True, the Labour benches and even the Cabinet look as though they are inhabited by relatively normal people, while the Tory side and the Shadow Cabinet look like the boys and prefects of a single-sex school - albeit with a

few token girls having been allowed into the sixth form.

But the modernisation of Westminster's archaic working practices is said to have been blocked - by the House's first woman Speaker, Betty Boothroyd, who has shown all Margaret Thatcher's lack of sympathy towards women who have not yet made it to the top.

That should not put the Tories off their quest to feminise their party from top to bottom. Of course, they cannot go down Labour's women-only shortlist route. So far, though, all that they have proposed in order to present themselves as modern, fresh and representative is a "target" of 250 women candidates at the next election.

We should be a little more convinced of the Conservatives' sincerity if the person in charge of establishing this feminist base camp on the slopes of their electoral Everest were someone other than Roger Freeman, the Brylcreemed former minister whose main achievement is being mistaken for Cecil Parkinson.

## The modern mail

ONCE UPON a time, e-mail was geeky, adolescent and unconvincing, with all its funny conventions, such as using ":" to denote smiling and "lol" for "laugh out loud". But it is taking off, as we report today, with the British the biggest e-mailers of Europe. It has found its niche, an affectionate form in between the letter and the phone call, enabling people to keep in touch at times that suit the rhythms of modern life. Welcome to the e-world.

## We must pardon Private Daly, the last man shot for mutiny



FERGAL  
KEANE

To fight or to run, to follow  
orders or refuse - sooner  
or later most troops in  
battle confront these issues

MOST OF you will never have heard of Private James Joseph Daly. There is no immediate reason why you should. A soldier dead for 76 years, he is just one of the British soldiers who have been shot and killed this century. He is a tiny footnote in British imperial history, of interest to a small group of military historians. But for me his life and death illustrate a much bigger story, one that goes to the heart of a very complicated relationship.

But I will come to all that later. First the simple facts of James Daly's life: a native of County Westmeath, in what was then British-ruled Ireland, Daly was a private in the Connaught Rangers, a regiment that has served in the British army since the 1700s. Joining the British army for the proverbial "shilling a day" was the escape route from poverty for tens of thousands of Irishmen down the years. They fought in every corner of the empire, subduing the natives and imposing the Pax Britannica.

The courage of the Irishmen who fought for Britain in the First and Second World Wars was largely ignored at home. It didn't fit with the prevailing nationalist view of the past. Indeed it took until last November's Remembrance Services before we saw the Queen and the Irish President, Mary McAleese, pay tribute to their memory at Messines Ridge. It was, we were told, an occasion in which the Irish dead were honoured by the people of Ireland. Three-quarters of a century on, we finally reach a point where the Irish state feels able to commemorate Irishmen who had died fighting for Britain.

We have always suffered from a convenient amnesia about Irishmen fighting on the side of the old enemy.

I remember a neighbour in Dublin once telling me how her father, who had served at the Somme, had been shunned by local nationalists when he came home from the war. Others became targets and were shot by the IRA. But the simple fact is that the British shilling was all that saved thousands of families from starvation in the tenements of Dublin and the poverty-stricken lands west of the river Shannon. Tradition also had a big role to play. My neighbours' grandfather had served in the Boer War: he still keeps a brush he used for cleaning his uniform. In fact the tradition of southern Irishmen serving in British regiments continues to this day, though not anywhere like on the same scale as before independence.

But back to Private Daly. At the end of June 1920, Daly and the rest of his battalion were stationed at Jullundur, near Amritsar, in British India. The infamous massacre by British troops had taken place only a short time before. The area was seething with nationalist anger, and the soldiers of the Connaught Rangers were an important part of the British garrison. There is little indication of what Daly and his colleagues thought about the massacre. But it would appear they were more concerned with events at home in Ireland. The previous year IRA men had ambushed a group of policemen at Soloheadbeg in County Tipperary. The killings signalled the start of a new, bitter phase in the Irish Troubles.

Within a few months the IRA was launching ambushes on British troops and Irish policemen across the country. It is said that one of the Connaught Rangers, home on holidays from India, was attending a football match when he was held up and searched by

counters' misapprehensions, please get in touch with me.

Whatever the exact incident, Private Daly and up to 150 other men staged a mutiny. It appears to have been a fairly badly organised affair beginning at Jullundur, then spreading to the mountains. A green flag was raised and the mutineers named their HQ "Liberty Hall", after the headquarters of James Connolly's Irish Citizen Army that rebelled against the British in 1916. The army chaplain, Father Baker, was the first officer to recognise the inherent danger in the mutiny: should it succeed the local Indian population would surely be emboldened to strike out at the British.

This would give the British a powerful reason to deal ruthlessly with the mutineers. The priest moved quickly to try and defuse the situation. He persuaded Daly and the others to hand in their weapons on the promise that all would be forgotten about.

For a while this appeared to work. But tensions rose again. Some say Daly was pressurised by his colleagues, fearful that without weapons they were now at the mercy of the officers. Another theory is that the promise to "forget about everything" had been broken by the officers. Daly and about 40 men drew bayonets and advanced on the arsenal where the weapons were stored. On the way they were confronted by British officers who opened fire. Three men were hit. Two died quickly from their wounds, another died later in hospital from fever. At least two of the dead may have been simply returning from their mess when they wandered accidentally into the line of fire. But the gunfire ended the mutiny. Daly and his followers surrendered and were led away to the notorious prison at Luck-

now. It was there, on 2 November 1920, after being court-martialled, that Private James Joseph Daly, accused of being the ring-leader, was led out for execution by firing squad - the last man in the British army to be shot for mutiny. Eighteen others were given the death penalty but had their sentences commuted to life imprisonment. Two years later they were freed when an independent Irish state was declared.

It is in the nature of war to throw up impossible choices. The death of normality that attends the outbreak of war propels men and women into a moral quagmire. To kill or not to kill, to fight or to run, to follow orders or refuse... sooner or later most troops in battle confront these issues. And yet military doctrine, of necessity demands absolute obedience. That is how armies work. Soldiers are trained to react instinctively to the shouted command. When mutinies happen, they are for the most part the result of soldiers' anger, poor leadership, bad conditions and heavy losses. What happened with Private Daly was different. His choice, and that of the men who supported him, went to the core of his identity. An Irishman in a British uniform, he was still a British citizen. In legal terms he owed his loyalty to the king. But his heart told him otherwise. It is a choice few soldiers ever have to make.

Legally he was wrong. In human terms, though, can we condemn him? I don't believe we should. He and the other mutineers may be a footnote in history. There is no pressure from any source to re-appraise the mutiny. But I think that it's high time the Army did. It is time to pardon Private Daly.

Fergal Keane is a BBC special correspondent

## Kosova children appeal to Independent readers

**Kosova children refugees in Albania face a harsh and disease-ridden winter. Many are in deep shock, having witnessed their parents and relatives killed in the awful atrocities from which they fled. Albania, the poorest country in Europe, has few resources to support the massive influx of refugees.**

**Your action will help children who have lost everything**

The European Children's Trust needs your swift response to set up an emergency centre in Shkoder, northern Albania, to help 2500 refugees. Our centre will provide basic necessities and schooling to give security to the confused and frightened refugee children living in Shkoder.

These are children and families whose homes have been lost, perhaps forever.

Special help is needed for the traumatised children who have witnessed terrible crimes, and must now start to live a normal life.

• £30 could buy emergency medicine and food supplements for 5 Kosovar refugee children for a week.

Please send what you can to save the displaced Kosovar children this winter. Call 0800 056 3686 now or cut the coupon below

I enclose £ Dmy choice £ to save Kosovar children. (Cheques to The European Children's Trust, PREPOST K88359, 63 Queen Street, London EC4B 4AR.)

Or debit my Access/Visa/CAF card:

Card no  Expiry date

Signature  Date

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms

Address

Postcode

Telephone no

Please return to: Tanya Barro, 116/1, Kosova Emergency Appeal, The European Children's Trust, PREPOST K88359, 63 Queen Street, London EC4B 4AR.

Or call 0800 056 3686 NOW.

Please act NOW - your gift will give hope



## MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD

Bill Clinton on trial • Charlie Whelan's resignation • NHS in crisis • Trading in the euro • A royal marriage

## BILL CLINTON ON TRIAL

US opinion about the procedures that the Senate should employ in trying the impeachment of the President

## THE NEW YORK TIMES

AFTER THE strife in the House, the opening of the Senate trial of President Clinton looked reassuringly decorous. Senator Strom Thurmond, who was born only 34 years after Andrew Johnson's impeachment, swore in the big, calm-looking Chief Justice, William Rehnquist. The leaders' decision to tamp down party feuding and call a bipartisan caucus of all senators for this morning brought a surprisingly promising end to a grimly historic day that few expected to see. It is too early to decide that this marks the emergence of a rational statesmanship that has been missing in the House and at the White House. But the Senate has a momentous opportunity today to adopt rules that would shorten the trial, avoid months of redundant testimony and allow passage of a censure that the public and the evidence demand.

## DALLAS MORNING NEWS

THIS TRIAL will be one of the most monumental tests the US Senate has ever faced. Unfortunately, Americans may not get to see the full deliberations as senators reach their verdict about President Clinton's fate. Without on-the-scene cameras, the public will be left with only "sound bites" provided after the fact for the news shows, hardly befitting the complexity of the moment. The final deliberations must remain open to the public. This rare moment should prove a valuable civics lesson for the nation on both the Constitution and the importance of character in government.

## THE WASHINGTON POST

THE HOUSE, in our opinion, erred in its decision to impeach Mr Clinton. But an impeachment by the House demands of the Senate a proceeding of sufficient rigor to satisfy the more moderate of Mr Clinton's political foes - should the president ultimately be acquitted - that the Senate, at the least, did not shirk its

## THE NHS IN CRISIS

Views on the shortages of emergency services, hospital beds and nurses this winter in the National Health Service

## THE MIRROR

ALL SORTS of shortages have created the crisis in the health service. But one symbolises all that is wrong - the shortage of nurses. Years of Tory neglect and deliberate cuts undermined nurses in many ways. Labour should have known all this when it came to power yet it is only today that Health Secretary Frank Dobson reveals the crisis. He is rightly proud that more nurses are being trained yet still there will not be enough of them.

## THE DAILY TELEGRAPH

NO HEALTH service, however richly endowed, can hope to cater for citizens who, struck by a common ailment, see no alternative but to seek a hospital bed. To some extent Mr Dobson and his political colleagues have brought this on their own heads. There is a disposition constantly to present



the National Health Service as a cornucopia, available always to dispense limitless care to the sick for next to nothing. There is less emphasis laid on its obvious limitations and no emphasis at all on the obligation of all citizens to provide at least some primary health care within the home.

## THE ECONOMIST

TO MEET the public's expectations, the NHS may have to maintain a greater amount of spare capacity to cope with a

## THE VIEWS OF THE WORLD



## ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD

## Clean up this shambles

## NEW STATESMAN

CHARLIE WHELAN's departure, along with that of Geoffrey Robinson, will grieve Gordon Brown as much as Peter Mandelson's loss will grieve Tony Blair. Although Mandelson, an elected MP and a Cabinet minister, was much the more influential figure, Whelan, too, had been at the centre of New Labour since its creation. There is a palpable sense of relief among ministers that both Mandelson and Whelan have left the heart of government. But before they toast the purge, they should recall one significant point: most newspapers are essentially hostile to this government. One of the myths about New Labour is that all journalists are under its spell. Yet I can remember countless occasions when Mandelson and Whelan, working separately, prevented damaging stories from taking off or managed to get front pages helpful to the Government. The mantle of the spin doctor now falls to Alastair Campbell alone. (Steve Richards)

## DAILY RECORD

CHARLIE WHELAN knew he had to go. But the Government is not, as the Tories claim, falling apart at the seams. However, when he returns from South Africa, Mr Blair must clean up the shambles.

Whelan was a star of the election campaign, successfully spinning Gordon Brown's campaign to reassure the better-off voters that he could be trusted not to raise their taxes.

He was a doggedly loyal henchman and a first-class communicator of complicated policies. However, Brown is still too powerful for his personal position to be seriously undermined.

Now that two of the prime spin doctors and in-fighters have gone, New Labour should make its New Start. A truce has to be enforced on the vendettas that divert attention from the Government's achievements. The Cabinet could actually give the impression of being a team.

## THE EXPRESS

NEW LABOUR is spinning out of control. Political infighting played a major role in



CHARLIE WHELAN'S RESIGNATION

Verdicts on the resignation of Gordon Brown's press secretary and the consequences to New Labour

the collapse of the last Conservative government, and what destroyed it can just as easily destroy Labour.

If, as the Prime Minister tells us, New Labour is "bigger than any one individual", then anyone who undermines him or the Government's integrity must go. And if that includes senior ministers, such as Peter Mandelson and Geoffrey Robinson, it

certainly includes advisers and press aides such as Charlie Whelan.

## THE TIMES

GORDON BROWN no longer needs Charlie Whelan. Like the already departed

Geoffrey Robinson, Mr Whelan belongs to Mr Brown's Prince Hal days. The roistering band of lads ate pizzas, watched football and plotted a new economic strategy, albeit in the elegance of the Grosvenor House rather than the more lowly Boar's Head Tavern in Eastcheap.

That was fine for opposition, but, in office, Mr Brown has outgrown this phase. So their resignations are a liberation, a chance for Mr Brown to develop as Chancellor to demonstrate that he has "turned away from my former self" and "those that kept me company".

The danger is that Mr Brown will, instead, see the departures of Mr Whelan and Mr Robinson as a personal defeat and a victory for his enemies. So he may turn even more upon himself. (Peter Riddell)

## DAILY MAIL

THE CRASHING fall of Charlie Whelan hopefully marks the beginning of the end of the era of the spin doctor. And not before time. Politics could well do without this breed of hatchetmen who do little to further the smooth running of government but do much to distort the truth. Gordon Brown is unlikely to risk resurrecting the spin doctor corpse when he chooses Mr Whelan's successor. (Sir Bernard Ingham)

## THE GUARDIAN

OF COURSE, Charles Alexander James Whelan, loveable or unlovable as he may be, is no innocent. He is the Vinnie Jones of spin. Relatively untroubled by professional scruples, he was a lethally effective operator on behalf of Gordon Brown, as capable of brutal assassinations of "enemies" as he was brilliant at projecting - and protecting - his friends. But, in the end, he made too many enemies.

He was perceived, rightly or wrongly, as someone who imported the bitter tactics of Seventies sectarian union fighting into Nineties government. Though he served Mr Brown well, he knew that he was becoming a liability.

When the fate of a treasury press officer threatens to overshadow the launch of a single European currency it is time to bow out.

## TRADING IN THE EURO

The European press evaluate the euro after the beginning of dealing in the new currency

FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG  
Germany

THE WORLD financial markets greet the euro with strong gains. Europe's common currency wins noticeable value compared to the dollar on the very first trading day. And the euro is celebrated with strong gains on the stock and bond markets as well. No doubt the euro has survived its first baptism by fire.

## LA LIBRE BELGIQUE

THERE IS still a lot to play for. What happens for example if one of the euro-zone countries is hit by economic difficulties which do not affect the others? The devaluation weapon is no longer open to us. So a localised shock could lead to sharp recession. Euroland does not have the American safety valve, where

workers can flee recession by moving from one state to another. And federal-style budgetary transfers are almost non-existent because the EU budget is Lilliputian by comparison with the US's.

LE MONDE  
France

THIS IS a message to the English: the ball is now in your court! The euro is waiting for you. The EU and its newborn money need you. You have always been highly sceptical towards the construction of Europe. You have always been dragging your feet to commit yourself to the European design.

To you the EU was a "French idea", designed and run by a "continental bureaucracy" under a "German influence". Up till now you were willing to wait on the platform... You are in the habit of waiting for European trains to start moving. Now the euro is launched, it is time for you to join it.

## A ROYAL MARRIAGE

Comment following the announcement that Prince Edward is to marry Sophie Rhys-Jones

## THE EXPRESS

THE MEDIA must be careful not to hound the newlyweds. Marriages face all sorts of pressures in the best of circumstances; having every action picked over by a ravenous media won't help Sophie and Edward to get off to a proper start.

## THE SUN

SOPHIE'S LOOKS remind many of Diana, but there comparisons should end. Even her title could be sensitive. There could only ever be one People's Princess. The Queen must make Sophie a darling Duchess.

## THE GUARDIAN

AFTER ANNE, Charles and Andrew we know better than to believe in fairy tales. Our thoughts should be reserved for Sophie Rhys-Jones. Numerous precedents suggest that it cannot be an easy thing to

marry into the Royal Family, even at such an inconsequential level. The less she and Edward make of it the better.

## THE MIRROR

WELL I don't know about you but I haven't slept. There I was putting away the Christmas decorations, wondering what I'd next hang from my bare walls, when I heard the joyous news. And with teary eyes I reached for my bunting and sewing kit and got cracking. Hurrah! for Edward and Sophie, I say. (Brian Reade)

## DAILY MAIL

SOPHIE COMMITTED her usual fashion faux pas yesterday, wearing another pair from her huge collection of round-toed, dumpy-heeled shoes. They look as though they belong to a woman twice her age, and do nothing for her ankles. (Trudi Wallace)

## QUOTES OF THE WEEK



"I am not scared of flying, I am scared of crashing." Helen Baxendale, actress (above)

"We have had more back-biting in the Government in the last few weeks than you could cram into an average episode of Dallas." William Hague, Tory leader

"Our Test team needs someone to stand back and not be the father figure or the friend to put them on the back or give them a cuddle. He should give them a kick up the backside now and again." Geoffrey Boycott, former cricketer

"I don't need a witness to tell if this is a blue dress or not." Senator Patrick J. Leahy, Democrat

"If I know sex is going to happen, I try to distract my husband with a cup of tea and a biscuit." Unnamed pensioner on sex on TV

"It takes two to spin. A spin doctor is only as good as his contacts." Derek Draper, former spin doctor

## MISCELLANEOUS

Stories from around the world

POTTSSTOWN MERCURY  
US

making five figures from tomatoes to cages and wire, and dressing them in appropriate clothing and masks.

## THE TIMES OF INDIA

FOR PATIENTS proceeding to the United States for surgery, there is disquieting news. Surgeons are removing wrong parts of the body there: amputating the wrong foot, removing the wrong kidney and operating the wrong side of the brain. Patients' bodies are now being autographed to avoid what has come to be called "wrong-site surgery". The fans of the Comedy Central cartoon hit spent \$350 and considerable time

RESEARCH BY KATY GUEST

# The mobile way to keep my son on message

HERE'S A sad story. A friend's eight-year-old son was asked by his granny in the Shetland Isles what he wanted for his birthday. "A mobile," he squeaked excitedly on a crackling line to Harolds Wick on the Isle of Unst.

My friend lives in trendy Clapham where all her son's school friends apparently got mobiles for Christmas. Yes, I did say eight years old. According to the latest information from the Federation of Communication Services, the mobile communications industry body, kids are becoming as addicted to Vodaphones as their parents.

A week later the parcel arrived. It contained two coat-hangers from which six brightly coloured card-board fishes were attached by lengths of string. "Dear Jasper,

Happy birthday. I hope you enjoy your fish mobile. Lots of love, Granny," said the message.

Call it a cop-out, but I've finally succumbed and betrayed all my long held and widely advertised principles - I bought my 15-year-old son a pager for Christmas.

"It isn't really for him," I told the man in the mobile shop. For some reason I felt I should justify the purchase. "It's for my peace of mind. Half the time I've no idea where he is. At least this way I shall be able to track him down." "If he calls back," the man in the mobile phone shop said laconically.

"Mum, you're a star," I was informed on Christmas morning. "It's well dry [ie really nice]. Much better than Jack's." Why, what's wrong with Jack's, I asked. Arent



**SUE ARNOLD**  
*I've finally succumbed and betrayed all my principles - I bought my 15-year-old son a pager*

they all the same? No apparently they're not. Jack's is dry [ie not very nice] because it doesn't automatically beam over the latest football

results and lottery numbers. If I'd known that the one I bought included those facilities, I should not have parted so readily with my 40 quid.

So far, at least, the novelty hasn't worn off. When I beam my message (up to 80 characters including spaces) the charming girl at the Zap - it's not called a pager message-answering service by the way, it's called a Zap - doesn't ask me why, it's just another of its well dark facilities - my son returns the call immediately.

We're slowly getting the hang of it. Instead of making him call me back, which, he complained, costs him 10p, I can give the instructions direct to the Zap girl. Thus: "James, it's me, Mum. Don't forget you've got an appointment with the doc-

tor tomorrow at 10.15 about your verrucas."

It's surprising how much you can get into 80 characters including spaces. When I relayed that message about the verrucas to the Zap girl I found myself apologising for its unpleasant content. "Don't worry, you'd be surprised at some of the things we have to pass on," she said. "Sometimes we have to water them down a bit." I'm glad to hear it.

My son had a message the other day from his friend Buddy. What Buddy said to the Zap girl was: "Listen dickhead call Buddy soonest or he'll kick your arse." What the Zap girl relayed to James came out as "James, call Mr Buddy as soon as possible or he'll kick your bottom."

My daughter tells me that the

leopard-skin, with or without e-mail, Internet, personal computer, word processing and fax facilities - but because of the reputed danger from radiation. I read an article recently about the gruesome effect that low-level microwaves can have on mobile phone users.

To my technically untrained ear, a low-level microwave is a small oven for heating up shepherd's pie or cooking meringues, but the article went on to describe the research into low-level microwave mobile phone radiation carried out by Professor Henry Lee at the University of Washington in Seattle on small rodents.

Headaches, disorientation, not being able to remember the Prime Minister's name. It was chilling. Give me a Zap girl any day.

## THE SATURDAY PROFILE

WILLIAM REHNQUIST, CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE UNITED STATES

# Playing poker with a nation

THOSE WHO contend that history has a twisted sense of humour found their perfect example this week in the spectacle of William Hubbs Rehnquist, being sworn in to preside as an "impartial" judge over the impeachment trial of President Clinton.

The least of it is that Rehnquist, a highly ideological conservative, was sworn to judicial impartiality by the presiding officer and oldest member of the Senate, Strom Thurmond of South Carolina, a man so far to the Right that 51 years ago he ran for President as a "Dixiecrat" in protest against the very modest moves the Democratic party (to which Thurmond then belonged) had made in the direction of conceding civil rights to black Americans.

Another irony lies in the fact that Rehnquist, as an amateur historian, published a book in 1992, *Grand Inquests*, about the two previous most important impeachment trials in American history: those of Chief Justice Samuel Chase in 1813, and of President Andrew Johnson in 1868. The book is being republished, and has already reached the bestseller lists, but Rehnquist has decided not to update it for fear of giving away his opinion on matters that could come up in the Clinton trial.

That has not stopped Washington journalists rushing to see if they can glean any hints from it about how Rehnquist will conduct the trial. The failure of bipartisan attempts to cut the trial process short means that Rehnquist is now bound to have considerable influence over the proceedings. For the senators, not normally short of a word or several hundred on most subjects, will be largely silenced in the impeachment trial. They will be taking part as jurors, and however much they may take part in offstage manoeuvring, in the trial itself they will be limited to submitting questions in writing through the Chief Justice.

The constitution prescribes that the President can only be found guilty on an impeachment by a two-thirds majority, that is, by 67 senators, which is 12 more than the present Republican majority of 55. Twenty-six rules have been handed down to guide the senators. But once the trial starts, they will be entering largely uncharted waters, so the Chief Justice's role will certainly be influential and could be decisive.

That is why the irony is so profound. For President Clinton is a relatively centrist Democrat far from an extreme liberal by objective measures. But to the conservative Republicans who impeached him in the House of Representatives, and even more to the "movement conservatives", the Religious Right, the financial backers and ideological journalists who egged them on, Clinton is objectionable as a liberal.

Privately, Chief Justice Rehnquist certainly shares their opinion. He is an unashamed ideological conservative. He was sent to the Supreme Court 27 years ago as such by President Nixon, as part of a calculated plan on Nixon's part to end liberal domination of the Court. His voting

and his opinions as first a justice, then chief justice, have been reliably conservative. Indeed, while his impartiality should not be impugned, on a number of occasions he has even intervened judicially in the preliminaries of the President's investigation in ways that helped to bring Clinton before the bar of impeachment.

By the end of the 1960s, the Republicans, and conservatives generally, were furious at what they saw as the activist, liberal

perfervency, but increasingly bitter and political in recent years, in part because of the way the process was politicised by Richard Nixon. Nixon had had luck with his first nominations, one of whom turned out to belong to an all-white country club and the other to be spectacularly mediocre (giving rise to the immortal defense that "mediocre people had a right to be represented on the Supreme Court, too"). But he still had time to put three more conservatives on the Court before he resigned to forestall his own impeachment. One of them was William Rehnquist, who had been an assistant attorney-general in Nixon's own Department of Justice before Nixon appointed him to the Court in 1972.

He was, had always been and has remained an extreme conservative. One research group found that he had been consistently the most conservative justice on the Court, taking the conservative position (sometimes, admittedly, hard to define) in 85 per cent of cases.

Rehnquist grew up in Wisconsin, in the suburban, white middle-class world of Milwaukee, famous for its beer, German origins and northern European Protestant traditions. His parents were Swedish. Lutheran and of that mid-Western business conservatism that has given so much support to Ross Perot. Following High School he pursued an Ivy League education, first in political sciences at Stanford University and then to the traditionally liberal Harvard Law School, where he graduated top of his class. He then moved to Arizona, where they tend to resent the Federal government as if it were a colonial power, and practised law in Phoenix. There he became a friend and adviser of Senator Barry Goldwater, who ran for President as a conservative Republican candidate in 1964 and got trounced by Lyndon Johnson.

Rehnquist, even liberals agree, is un-stuffy and a pleasant enough man personally. Tall and now stooped, he hikes his loafers up on the table like a regular Western fellow, and used to wear his hair long, at least by the standards of judges. He has written, though not published, a detective novel, and he is fond of Gilbert & Sullivan; he will even preside over the impeachment in a gown he designed for himself (with gold bands to look like one he saw worn by the Lord Chancellor). He is also a keen amateur painter and a poker player.

He is, however, an unashamedly ideological judge and, moreover, that unusual animal, a pro-government conservative. The catch is that the government he favours is the state government as opposed to the federal government of the United States. In this he is squarely in the tradition of southern conservatives who have always defended states' rights against Washington.

Nor is his conservatism just a matter of abstract constitutional principles. As one writer put it, he invariably sides "with the

judgements of the "Warren Court" - the Supreme Court under Chief Justice Earl Warren. Those decisions included the famous desegregation in the Brown case in 1954 that racially segregated education was unconstitutional. But there were other decisions - banning prayer in schools, protecting the rights of criminal suspects against the police, endorsing affirmative action and mandating school busing in the interests of racial equality - that outraged conservatives scarcely less than Brown. President Nixon set out to destroy the liberal majority on the Supreme Court.

One of the longest-acting powers of a President lies in his ability to change the personnel, and so in the end the politics, of the Court. He can appoint justices, though they must then be confirmed by the Senate, after hearings, once fairly

judgements of the "Warren Court" - the Supreme Court under Chief Justice Earl Warren. Those decisions included the famous desegregation in the Brown case in 1954 that racially segregated education was unconstitutional. But there were other decisions - banning prayer in schools, protecting the rights of criminal suspects against the police, endorsing affirmative action and mandating school busing in the interests of racial equality - that outraged conservatives scarcely less than Brown. President Nixon set out to destroy the liberal majority on the Supreme Court.

One of the longest-acting powers of a President lies in his ability to change the personnel, and so in the end the politics, of the Court. He can appoint justices, though they must then be confirmed by the Senate, after hearings, once fairly

judgements of the "Warren Court" - the Supreme Court under Chief Justice Earl Warren. Those decisions included the famous desegregation in the Brown case in 1954 that racially segregated education was unconstitutional. But there were other decisions - banning prayer in schools, protecting the rights of criminal suspects against the police, endorsing affirmative action and mandating school busing in the interests of racial equality - that outraged conservatives scarcely less than Brown. President Nixon set out to destroy the liberal majority on the Supreme Court.

One of the longest-acting powers of a President lies in his ability to change the personnel, and so in the end the politics, of the Court. He can appoint justices, though they must then be confirmed by the Senate, after hearings, once fairly

judgements of the "Warren Court" - the Supreme Court under Chief Justice Earl Warren. Those decisions included the famous desegregation in the Brown case in 1954 that racially segregated education was unconstitutional. But there were other decisions - banning prayer in schools, protecting the rights of criminal suspects against the police, endorsing affirmative action and mandating school busing in the interests of racial equality - that outraged conservatives scarcely less than Brown. President Nixon set out to destroy the liberal majority on the Supreme Court.

One of the longest-acting powers of a President lies in his ability to change the personnel, and so in the end the politics, of the Court. He can appoint justices, though they must then be confirmed by the Senate, after hearings, once fairly

judgements of the "Warren Court" - the Supreme Court under Chief Justice Earl Warren. Those decisions included the famous desegregation in the Brown case in 1954 that racially segregated education was unconstitutional. But there were other decisions - banning prayer in schools, protecting the rights of criminal suspects against the police, endorsing affirmative action and mandating school busing in the interests of racial equality - that outraged conservatives scarcely less than Brown. President Nixon set out to destroy the liberal majority on the Supreme Court.

One of the longest-acting powers of a President lies in his ability to change the personnel, and so in the end the politics, of the Court. He can appoint justices, though they must then be confirmed by the Senate, after hearings, once fairly

judgements of the "Warren Court" - the Supreme Court under Chief Justice Earl Warren. Those decisions included the famous desegregation in the Brown case in 1954 that racially segregated education was unconstitutional. But there were other decisions - banning prayer in schools, protecting the rights of criminal suspects against the police, endorsing affirmative action and mandating school busing in the interests of racial equality - that outraged conservatives scarcely less than Brown. President Nixon set out to destroy the liberal majority on the Supreme Court.

One of the longest-acting powers of a President lies in his ability to change the personnel, and so in the end the politics, of the Court. He can appoint justices, though they must then be confirmed by the Senate, after hearings, once fairly

judgements of the "Warren Court" - the Supreme Court under Chief Justice Earl Warren. Those decisions included the famous desegregation in the Brown case in 1954 that racially segregated education was unconstitutional. But there were other decisions - banning prayer in schools, protecting the rights of criminal suspects against the police, endorsing affirmative action and mandating school busing in the interests of racial equality - that outraged conservatives scarcely less than Brown. President Nixon set out to destroy the liberal majority on the Supreme Court.

One of the longest-acting powers of a President lies in his ability to change the personnel, and so in the end the politics, of the Court. He can appoint justices, though they must then be confirmed by the Senate, after hearings, once fairly

judgements of the "Warren Court" - the Supreme Court under Chief Justice Earl Warren. Those decisions included the famous desegregation in the Brown case in 1954 that racially segregated education was unconstitutional. But there were other decisions - banning prayer in schools, protecting the rights of criminal suspects against the police, endorsing affirmative action and mandating school busing in the interests of racial equality - that outraged conservatives scarcely less than Brown. President Nixon set out to destroy the liberal majority on the Supreme Court.

One of the longest-acting powers of a President lies in his ability to change the personnel, and so in the end the politics, of the Court. He can appoint justices, though they must then be confirmed by the Senate, after hearings, once fairly

judgements of the "Warren Court" - the Supreme Court under Chief Justice Earl Warren. Those decisions included the famous desegregation in the Brown case in 1954 that racially segregated education was unconstitutional. But there were other decisions - banning prayer in schools, protecting the rights of criminal suspects against the police, endorsing affirmative action and mandating school busing in the interests of racial equality - that outraged conservatives scarcely less than Brown. President Nixon set out to destroy the liberal majority on the Supreme Court.

One of the longest-acting powers of a President lies in his ability to change the personnel, and so in the end the politics, of the Court. He can appoint justices, though they must then be confirmed by the Senate, after hearings, once fairly

judgements of the "Warren Court" - the Supreme Court under Chief Justice Earl Warren. Those decisions included the famous desegregation in the Brown case in 1954 that racially segregated education was unconstitutional. But there were other decisions - banning prayer in schools, protecting the rights of criminal suspects against the police, endorsing affirmative action and mandating school busing in the interests of racial equality - that outraged conservatives scarcely less than Brown. President Nixon set out to destroy the liberal majority on the Supreme Court.

One of the longest-acting powers of a President lies in his ability to change the personnel, and so in the end the politics, of the Court. He can appoint justices, though they must then be confirmed by the Senate, after hearings, once fairly

judgements of the "Warren Court" - the Supreme Court under Chief Justice Earl Warren. Those decisions included the famous desegregation in the Brown case in 1954 that racially segregated education was unconstitutional. But there were other decisions - banning prayer in schools, protecting the rights of criminal suspects against the police, endorsing affirmative action and mandating school busing in the interests of racial equality - that outraged conservatives scarcely less than Brown. President Nixon set out to destroy the liberal majority on the Supreme Court.

One of the longest-acting powers of a President lies in his ability to change the personnel, and so in the end the politics, of the Court. He can appoint justices, though they must then be confirmed by the Senate, after hearings, once fairly

judgements of the "Warren Court" - the Supreme Court under Chief Justice Earl Warren. Those decisions included the famous desegregation in the Brown case in 1954 that racially segregated education was unconstitutional. But there were other decisions - banning prayer in schools, protecting the rights of criminal suspects against the police, endorsing affirmative action and mandating school busing in the interests of racial equality - that outraged conservatives scarcely less than Brown. President Nixon set out to destroy the liberal majority on the Supreme Court.

One of the longest-acting powers of a President lies in his ability to change the personnel, and so in the end the politics, of the Court. He can appoint justices, though they must then be confirmed by the Senate, after hearings, once fairly

judgements of the "Warren Court" - the Supreme Court under Chief Justice Earl Warren. Those decisions included the famous desegregation in the Brown case in 1954 that racially segregated education was unconstitutional. But there were other decisions - banning prayer in schools, protecting the rights of criminal suspects against the police, endorsing affirmative action and mandating school busing in the interests of racial equality - that outraged conservatives scarcely less than Brown. President Nixon set out to destroy the liberal majority on the Supreme Court.

One of the longest-acting powers of a President lies in his ability to change the personnel, and so in the end the politics, of the Court. He can appoint justices, though they must then be confirmed by the Senate, after hearings, once fairly

judgements of the "Warren Court" - the Supreme Court under Chief Justice Earl Warren. Those decisions included the famous desegregation in the Brown case in 1954 that racially segregated education was unconstitutional. But there were other decisions - banning prayer in schools, protecting the rights of criminal suspects against the police, endorsing affirmative action and mandating school busing in the interests of racial equality - that outraged conservatives scarcely less than Brown. President Nixon set out to destroy the liberal majority on the Supreme Court.

One of the longest-acting powers of a President lies in his ability to change the personnel, and so in the end the politics, of the Court. He can appoint justices, though they must then be confirmed by the Senate, after hearings, once fairly

judgements of the "Warren Court" - the Supreme Court under Chief Justice Earl Warren. Those decisions included the famous desegregation in the Brown case in 1954 that racially segregated education was unconstitutional. But there were other decisions - banning prayer in schools, protecting the rights of criminal suspects against the police, endorsing affirmative action and mandating school busing in the interests of racial equality - that outraged conservatives scarcely less than Brown. President Nixon set out to destroy the liberal majority on the Supreme Court.

One of the longest-acting powers of a President lies in his ability to change the personnel, and so in the end the politics, of the Court. He can appoint justices, though they must then be confirmed by the Senate, after hearings, once fairly

judgements of the "Warren Court" - the Supreme Court under Chief Justice Earl Warren. Those decisions included the famous desegregation in the Brown case in 1954 that racially segregated education was unconstitutional. But there were other decisions - banning prayer in schools, protecting the rights of criminal suspects against the police, endorsing affirmative action and mandating school busing in the interests of racial equality - that outraged conservatives scarcely less than Brown. President Nixon set out to destroy the liberal majority on the Supreme Court.

One of the longest-acting powers of a President lies in his ability to change the personnel, and so in the end the politics, of the Court. He can appoint justices, though they must then be confirmed by the Senate, after hearings, once fairly

judgements of the "Warren Court" - the Supreme Court under Chief Justice Earl Warren. Those decisions included the famous desegregation in the Brown case in 1954 that racially segregated education was unconstitutional. But there were other decisions - banning prayer in schools, protecting the rights of criminal suspects against the police, endorsing affirmative action and mandating school busing in the interests of racial equality - that outraged conservatives scarcely less than Brown. President Nixon set out to destroy the liberal majority on the Supreme Court.

One of the longest-acting powers of a President lies in his ability to change the personnel, and so in the end the politics, of the Court. He can appoint justices, though they must then be confirmed by the Senate, after hearings, once fairly

judgements of the "Warren Court" - the Supreme Court under Chief Justice Earl Warren. Those decisions included the famous desegregation in the Brown case in 1954 that racially segregated education was unconstitutional. But there were other decisions - banning prayer in schools, protecting the rights of criminal suspects against the police, endorsing affirmative action and mandating school busing in the interests of racial equality - that outraged conservatives scarcely less than Brown. President Nixon set out to destroy the liberal majority on the Supreme Court.

One of the longest-acting powers of a President lies in his ability to change the personnel, and so in the end the politics, of the Court. He can appoint justices, though they must then be confirmed by the Senate, after hearings, once fairly

judgements of the "Warren Court" - the Supreme Court under Chief Justice Earl Warren. Those decisions included the famous desegregation in the Brown case in 1954 that racially segregated education was unconstitutional. But there were other decisions - banning prayer in schools, protecting the rights of criminal suspects against the police, endorsing affirmative action and mandating school busing in the interests of racial equality - that outraged conservatives scarcely less than Brown. President Nixon set out to destroy the liberal majority on the Supreme Court.

One of the longest-acting powers of a President lies in his ability to change the personnel, and so in the end the politics, of the Court. He can appoint justices, though



## THE WEEKLY MUSE

BY MARTIN NEWELL



New Year, new you? It isn't quite. The waistband feels a tad too tight. The head is fugged, the wallet's thin. And resolutions clog the bin. That's when the meter men appear With taxman bringing up the rear. Best thing to do is stay in bed And send your clone to work instead.

It's chaos on the trading floor...

A little bundle at the door  
Of kisses, curses, custard pies –  
Midst mingled aahs and skeptical sighs

The baby euro's trundled in  
While Britain grumbles at the din.

A Saxon chieftain and his horse  
Lay undisturbed in chalky ground  
For fourteen hundred years or so

And slept the centuries away.

Much later, over fens and farms  
Around the Suffolk air force base,

Another German warrior flew

Then fell to earth and lost the day.

"Well met," the Saxon soldier said:  
"We've changed a bit since oxen carts

But not so fast you'd notice it.

They take their time around these parts  
Where warriors younger now than you  
Still gird themselves for battle zones.  
Lie down, young flier. The day may come  
When men will marvel at your bones."

*Impeachment.* It's a curious word,  
Most often found with *President*  
Confusing what he said he meant  
When evidence is later heard.  
I used to think, some years ago.

Impeachment meant "to place in peach,  
Pushed into pulp to fill a breach".

It doesn't. (Bet he'd like it though.)

And we who have survived the flu

Without a call to 999

Have got some stern research to do  
Regarding health claims made for wine.  
They say it perks the brain-cells up.  
How interesting: now where's my cup?

So it's official: in-flight food  
Is gastronomic guck from hell,  
Congealed, fibrous, leathery  
Synthetic, overcooked as well.  
Does Egon Ronay tell the truth?  
Do Virgin trains run out of diesel?  
They do – like I run out of space.

Now pop next door and read *The Weasel*.

## THE WEASEL

Having digested Proust, I tucked into a madeleine. The cake was most toothsome, but produced little in the way of time travel

JUST FOR once, I have completed my Christmas reading project. Usually, this annual endeavour gets bogged down after the first chapter or so. *Bleak House* got no further than the foundations and I have scant hope of ever completing *Great Expectations*. But this year I pulled off the big one. I lapped up *A la Recherche du Temps Perdu* in a single sitting. Of course (*Weasel* gives *casual shrug*), I read it in French. Somehow, even the finest translations miss the subtle nuances of *le maitre*, don't you agree? Admittedly, it was only the first two sections of Proust's masterpiece. OK, maybe I didn't read every word. However, I can say hand over heart that I looked at every single picture.

Sorry, didn't I mention that it was the new comic-strip version of *A la Recherche* (Delcourt, £10.95) that I breezed through? Though Stephane Heuet's graphic adaptation prompted a few *Gallic grilles* (*Le Figaro* called it "catastrophic", "blasphemous" and "prodigiously inane"), it was well received by the French public, with the first edition of 12,000 copies selling out in three weeks. In the *London Review of Books*, the Proust scholar Michael Wood has praised the "moments of genuine lyricism" and "diligent textual fidelity" of Heuet's version. However, amid the prodigiously wordy captions and bulbous speech bubbles, there appears to be one significant addition. No one in the original novel ever said "Tiens! une madeleine!"

This ejaculation emerges from the sad-eyed narrator, who bears a strong resemblance to Marcel P. himself. By

munching the bun, he is transported back to his childhood in the provincial town of Combray. In order to appreciate the magical properties of this confection, I provided Mrs Weasel with a batch of madeleines. After I brushed aside her trifling objections (my next expense claim will include "one madeleine tin: £6.95"), madame set to work. An hour or so later, I was dunking a fragment of the shell-shaped sponge in a teaspoon of tea – the somewhat prissy technique adopted by the cartoon hero. Needless to say, nothing happened. The cake was most toothsome, but produced little in the way of time travel.

I am not alone in my desire to consume fiction's most illustrious item of *patisserie*. A recent feature in the *New Yorker* revealed that 2,000 madeleines per month are sold to Proust worshippers in Illiers-Combray, the author's home town near Chartres. (The community was merely Illiers until 1971, when its fictional counterpart was added by hyphenation.) However, Anne Borrel, the curator of the town's Proust Museum, holds the trenchant view that "the cult of the madeleine is blasphemy". Crumbs! Apparently, the great Marcel was not so obsessed by these cakes as most people think. In earlier drafts of his *magnum opus*, it appears that the role of the madeleine was taken by meleba toast.

Of course, the truth is that we each have our own madeleine – a sensation that instantly whizzes us back across

the decades. In my case, it is the pungent scent of *Kalamata* olives. This is not because I had a sun-drenched childhood in the Peloponnese. Far from it. My early years were passed in the less-than-exotic location of the West Riding. However, the smell of *Kalamata* olives is exactly the same as the curing vats in the wire factory where my father worked. One whiff of

which is somewhat inappropriately called *Ardent*. Quite what the series was about, I can't recall. It might have been the Thames, it might have been royal palaces. Possibly both.

Anyway, it was unusually uplifting viewing for late-night ITV. I'm sure that the decision to show such impeccably worthy material, reminiscent of the old "Look at Life" filler, which they used to show at the Odeon years ago, was completely unconnected with the royal association. I very much hope that a second, equally informative series will soon be commissioned from *Ardent*. As a relaxing soaper, *Prince Edward* beats *Horlicks* hands down.

"I ARRIVE somewhere and head straight for market or the fish docks," writes my hero Rick Stein in his *Seafood Odyssey* (BBC, £18.99). As Mrs W knows to her cost, such a fragrant expedition is always my first move in foreign parts. Mr Stein began his new TV series among the fish stalls of Naples. Invited by the cameras, a local show-off chomped a chunk from a live octopus. "You can't do that!" Cornwall's culinary king expostulated. Quite right too. Brightest of all invertibrates, the octopus has an intelligence comparable to that of a dog. The Neapolitan goon might as well have bitten the paw of a puppy.

Mr Stein writes that "the main reason" for his trip to Naples was pasta puttanesca, my favourite of all pasta sauces. His version took all of 10 minutes and looked wonderful on TV. But a Greek salad and I'm back there, aged nine.

A NATION rejoices at the news of the royal nuptials. I was particularly pleased to learn that *Prince Edward* and Sophie Rhys-Jones intend to continue with their day jobs after tying the knot. The reason is that I was a great fan of the recent TV documentary series presented by *His Royal Highness* and produced by his company,

## SPIRIT OF THE AGE

PAUL VALLEY

## 100 years without a drink

JUST THINK, if you were a teetotaller, how you feel this morning is as good as you can expect to feel all day. So goes the traditional apology of those who drink to excess and routinely put up with the liverish discomfort of the morning after the night before.

Of course, there is an alternative. You could give up drinking. Why? Well, as an act of self-denial. To set a good example to those who drink to excess. Or even as an act of reparation for the world's general intemperance.

"Oh that's alright," he said as he scrutinised it. "We're allowed all that. The days of meat and two veg are long gone, and food is so much more adventurous. We just use our common sense. Indeed sherry trifle is a regular favourite at our dinner-dances."

There seemed something endearingly innocent about the trifile. The first Pioneer I had met had been an altogether more robust character. Some years ago I came across an old clock-maker called Tomy who couped the no-drink commitment with a decidedly more macho career as an amateur boxing champion – skills which he combined in later life disciplining errant drunks in monastic alcohol rehabilitation programmes in his native Ireland.

But what all Pioneers have in common was adherence to three rules: to abstain from alcohol for life; to wear the organisation's lapel badge; and to say a daily prayer of dedication. For the motivation of the organisation is religious – its full title is the Pioneer Total Abstinence Association of the Sacred Heart.

What motivates such self-restraint?

In order to find out I went along to have lunch with its president, Pat Hampton, a former postman who now makes his

living processing covenants for Cardinal Hume.

It was with some trepidation that I handed him the menu. Passing over the wine list in favour of mineral water had not proved that difficult, but there hardly seemed to be a dish on the menu that wasn't cooked in white wine, flavoured with madeira or marsala or flamed in brandy.

"Oh that's alright," he said as he scrutinised it. "We're allowed all that. The days of meat and two veg are long gone, and food is so much more adventurous. We just use our common sense. Indeed sherry trifle is a regular favourite at our dinner-dances."

There seemed something endearingly innocent about the trifile. The first Pioneer I had met had been an altogether more robust character. Some years ago I came across an old clock-maker called Tomy who couped the no-drink commitment with a decidedly more macho career as an amateur boxing champion – skills which he combined in later life disciplining errant drunks in monastic alcohol rehabilitation programmes in his native Ireland.

But what all Pioneers have in common was adherence to three rules: to abstain from alcohol for life; to wear the organisation's lapel badge; and to say a daily prayer of dedication. For the motivation of the organisation is religious – its full title is the Pioneer Total Abstinence Association of the Sacred Heart.

But what motivates such self-restraint?

In order to find out I went along to have lunch with its president, Pat Hampton, a former postman who now makes his

It's always seemed to me to be an odd object of devotion – the physical heart of Jesus. There's nothing in the bible about it, but medieval mystics hit upon the wounded heart, encircled by a crown of thorns and radiating light, as a symbol of Christ's love for the world. It's an even odder symbol for abstainers to adopt for, unlike other New Testament figures such as the teetotal John the Baptist, Jesus was a bit of a boozier. His critics even call him a drunkard in two of the gospels, and he certainly used wine as a key symbol at his last supper.

"We do not deny that wine is one of God's good gifts," said Pat as he tucked into something wine-free but irresistibly high-fat. "It's just that we have chosen to make a voluntary life-long sacrifice of it."

The idea of total abstinence grew out of the perceived failure of moderation to curb drunkenness – and the squalor and poverty that resulted from it – among the working classes in the 19th century. There was nothing new about the idea. In medieval times St Boniface banned alcohol in his monasteries; the English Puritans were not exactly big on booze, and the first temperance movements appeared in churches in the 18th century.

But the idea of moderation had initially appealed to post-Enlightenment until the 19th century reformers decided it was ineffectual. It was in 1832 that the moderation society in Preston, Lancashire, went total and – thanks to

the stammer of one of its leading lights – coined the term teetotal. Some 50 years later the Pioneers were formed in Dublin by a Jesuit priest.

You might imagine that it has been in decline since. But in fact its membership – at 500,000 (just half of them in Ireland) – has remained pretty constant, surprisingly so given the "if it feels good, do it" temper of our times: where slimming is as near as most of us come to self-restraint. And slimming, of course, is an introverted self-absorbed activity whereas abstinence finds its focus outside the self. "I don't do this for me," says Pat. "It's my effort – through prayer and by example – on behalf of someone whom I might never know about."

In a church renowned for its

whiskey priests the Pioneers are not universally well received. "Some clergy seemed to think we were killjoys. We were seen as old-fashioned. But drugs have changed that among many."

Saying no to drugs has been a key element in the movement's youth clubs, like the one Pat runs in Cricklewood, London. "We get young people involved and let them see you can have a good time without drink. Many of them then never feel the need for it."

Around half the Pioneers have never touched a drop. The other half were people for whom alcohol was becoming a problem. "I liked it too much myself," admits Pat. "But I'm not anti-drink. I'm just saying that people have a choice – and I made it." And we can all drink to that.

Good Templars of the Temperance Society, c1900 Hulton Getty

## DAYS LIKE THESE

9 JANUARY 1965



11 JANUARY 1942

**IAN MORRISON**, journalist, observes Kuala Lumpur awaiting the arrival of the Japanese:

"Civil authority had broken down. The European officials and residents had all evacuated. There was looting in progress such as I have never seen before. Most of the big department stores had already been whistled clean. There was now a general sack of all shops and premises. The streets were knee-deep in boxes and cardboard cartons and paper."

Looters could be seen carrying every imaginable prize away with them. Here was one man with a Singer sewing-machine over his shoulder; there a Chinese with a long roll of linoleum tied to the back of his bicycle, here two Tamils with a great sack of rice suspended from a pole, there a young Tamil struggling with a great box of the best Norwegian sardines."

IAN IRVINE

"After a small party to celebrate my 52nd birthday, I sat in my study to look back on the past year and look ahead into the future. I reflected on the fact that Winston Churchill had been in his mid-fifties when he lost his position of leadership in the House of Commons in 1939, and most of his contemporaries had then written him off as a political leader. But Churchill refused to write himself off. I took heart from the example of his refusal to give up... I wrote down some new year's resolutions for 1965: Set great goals; Daily rest; Brief vacations; Knowledge of all weaknesses; Better use of time; Begin writing book; Golf or some other kind of daily exercise; Articles or speeches on provocative new international and national issues.

I put down my yellow pad, turned out the light and stared into the fire"

## America's leaders have failed



## CLASSIC PODIUM

From a speech by Richard Nixon accepting the Republican nomination for the presidential election of 1968 with a call for "honest government" (8 AUGUST 1968)

destiny, and let us begin by committing ourselves to the truth to see it like it is and tell it like it is, to find the truth, to speak the truth and to live the truth. That's what we will do.

We've had enough of big promises and little action. The time has come for an honest government in the United States of America.

My fellow Americans, I believe that

historians will recall that 1968 marked the beginning of the American generation in world history. Just to be alive in America, just to be alive at this time, is an experience unparalleled in history.

Thirty-two years from now most Americans living today will celebrate a New Year that comes once in a thousand years. And by our decision in this year, we – all of us here, all of you listening on television and radio – we will determine what kind of nation America will be. We will determine what kind of a world America will live in in the year 2000.

Tonight, I see the face of a child. He lives in a great city, he's black or he's white, he's Mexican, Italian, Polish, none of that matters. What matters: he's an American child.

That child in that great city is more important than any politician's promise. He is America; he is a poet, he is a scientist, he's a great teacher, he's a proud craftsman, he's everything we've ever hoped to be in everything we dare to dream about.

He sleeps the sleep of a child, and he dreams the dreams of a child. And yet when he awakens, he awakens to a living nightmare of poverty, neglect and despair.

He fails in school, he ends up on welfare. For him the American system is one that feeds his stomach and starves his soul. It breaks his heart.

And in the end it may take his life

on some distant battlefield. To millions of children in this rich land this is their prospect – but this is only a part of what I see in America.

I see another child tonight. He hears a train go by. At night he dreams of faraway places here he'd like to go. It seems like an impossible dream. But he is helped on his journey through life. A father who had to go to work before he finished the sixth grade sacrificed everything he had so that his sons could go to college.

A gentle Quaker mother with a passionate concern for peace quietly wept when he went to war but she understood why he had to go.

A great teacher, a remarkable football coach, an inspirational minister encouraged him on his way. A courageous wife and loyal children stood by him in victory and also in defeat. And in his chosen profession of politics, first there were scores, then hundreds, and then thousands and finally millions who worked for his success.

And tonight he stands before you, nominated for President of the United States of America. You can see why I believe so deeply in the American dream. For most of us the American revolution has been won, the American dream has come true.

What I ask of you tonight is to help me make that dream come true for millions to whom it's an impossible dream today.

## THE SATURDAY ESSAY

# Our desire to conform is crushing the human spirit



KENNETH MINOGUE

*The attack on individualism amounts to a project for closing down the innovative vitality of the modern world*

INDIVIDUALISM is a 19th century word for a 16th century phenomenon: the practice of living in terms of coherent desires under the rule of law, rather than within the graduated rankings Europeans inherited from the middle ages. Individualism unleashed, for better or for worse, everything that makes the modern West dynamic and innovative. It has also created a moral universalism never before seen. Responsible and compassionate about the evils of the world, individualists have seldom been able to free themselves from the taint of selfishness and egotism. The slide from social description to pejorative moral judgement takes place in the blink of an eye.

This collapse into condemnation happens because the vocabulary of individualism sounds harsh to ears becoming accustomed to the competing moral attitudes found in such terms as "co-operation", "teamwork" and, especially, "community", a term which seldom occurs without a great outpouring of incense. At its most gross, contemporary rhetoric identifies individualism with a stereotype of self-interested rational choice, thought to flourish only in capitalism, alias the economy. To engage in endeavours that, even indirectly, make one better off than one's neighbour is often, in a reprise of Bolshevik sentiment, interpreted as the moral fault of greed.

These attitudes constitute a semantic atmosphere that emerged in the 1980s, along with political correctness, as a vehicle for hostility to libertarian justifications of the public policies pursued by Margaret Thatcher and Ronald Reagan. This hostility has led almost to a collapse of morality itself. Instead of bold assertions of right and wrong, which can be argued about, we have a sociality in which the wrong is described by using evasive relational terms such as "anti-social" or "unacceptable".

One of the many oddities of this new understanding should be immediately evident. It is the relation between individualism and successful co-operation. Individualists have throughout the modern period exhibited a capacity for intelligent joint action which far exceeds that of more communally organised civilisations. This capacity to respond imaginatively to changing situations is what explains the military and industrial superiority of Western cultures. Yet the communitarian attack on individualism takes the form of arguing that individualists are alienated atoms too selfish to be able to work together. The implication is that effectiveness requires conforming to what the community (alias the state) requires of us. This implication tells us a great deal about the politics of this rising morality.

It is this political question which has in our time given a special bite to the question of social reality. Is the thing we call "society" simply the outcome of the doings of the individuals composing it, or is it something like a Platonic form in which we all, in slightly different ways, participate? At every step in the response to such questions, partisans have their ears cocked in search of rhetorical advantage. For if society does, in fact, involve some common element "above" each individual, then the only way to improve the world is by operating through collectivist policies, and the only candidate for the role of agent of this collective is the state. That is why it has been argued (for example by Karl Popper) that methodological collectivism has political implications, indeed perhaps



An early morning crowd of commuters flows over London Bridge, the ultimate image of our 'ant-like' existence

Peter MacDiarmid

even leads directly to totalitarianism. If such a thing as Herbert Spencer referred to as a "social sensorium" is real, then society is a single collective feeling and there may well be a case for consciously directing it.

Marx was, of course, one of the main foes of individualism and deplored even postulating such a thing as "society" against the individual, remarking that "the particular individual is only a particular species being and as such mortal." The reality of the individual is thus for Marx nothing else but his immersion in society. Some version of this view has been the immemorial belief of mankind.

Individualism – as the beliefs associated with the exploration of human individualism – challenged this belief and it is in fact what distinguishes the modern Western world from other civilisations. It is the thing that the historian Burckhardt observed Italy "swarming with" in the Renaissance, and during the Reformation it surged into the sphere of religion, and not merely among Protestants. The political philosophy of Hobbes in his *Leviathan* of 1651 replaced the medieval ideal of graduated society by a conception of individuals each pursuing his (and rather later her) own good under laws made by a sovereign power. The French were especially fertile in exploring the psychology of this new creature, who typically appeared in theory as an egoist. Radical critics of individualism often condemned it by contrast with nostalgic ideas of the patriotic virtues of the classical republics and thus interpreted individualism as a symptom of moral corruption.

Some saw the modern world as an arena of alienated and miserable people who were crying out for an enlightenment that would bring order and happiness. Yet individualism not only survived but proved capable of defending itself. Some defences were defiantly paradoxical, such as Mandeville's view that it was precisely the vices of these selfish individuals which made them so prosperous.

Mandeville was thus one of the presiding deities of individualism, and it rapidly commercialised society. The growth of the market was something despised by many groups, ranging from poets to aristocrats. Yet Adam Smith and later writers argued that it was the basis of more peaceful and polished manners. With the industrial revolution, increasing numbers migrated

from the countryside to the towns, where the individual had long composed a new class of person, soon to be much hated, called the middle class, or the "bourgeoisie". Quite how the vast improvements in human possibility created by this new civilisation came to be so extensively rejected, often by those who had most benefited, is a complicated story, but there is little doubt that the attack on individualism amounts to a project for closing down the innovative vitality of the modern world.

It is as a moral theory that individualism is currently most neglected. Individual moral theory is a rejection of the Platonic idea that the moral life is an arduous struggle in which reason is forever at work subduing disorderly passions. Virtue platonically understood turns out to be fitting into a pattern, and individuality in Platonic theory no less than in the case of traditional civilisation, only by the problem constituted by deviance, eccentricity and waywardness. The only real virtue in traditional thought is fitting in. Not to fit in is merely irrational. A common derivation from this line of thought is the idea that the state has the responsibility for articulating and enforcing whatever is thought to be the rational pattern of life.

Individuality is, of course, only one among the possible bases for a social order. It is, in a sense, something that a culture imposes upon the people who share it, and while it has now spread remarkably, it is a unique civilisation creation. The modern West has been a daring adventure in human evolution because a situation in which individuals have the discretion to act on their own judgements seems to be the problem rather than the solution to the social order. And it is certainly true that a society constituted in this way requires a strong element of internalisation of the rules that make it possible.

This was how the modern Western world rejected castes, social hierarchies and even automatic respect for elders. It was a remarkable adventure, requiring a great deal of nerve and forever conducted amid the wailing of those who believed, and still believe, that unless we conformed to some ideal pattern of a good society we should inevitably come to grief.

And yet it survived. Nervous passengers caught up in this adventure were forever holding their hands over their eyes as they discerned shipwreck ahead, but eventually

the very term "crisis" became a bit of a joke because the ship sailed, not without turbulence but certainly without shipwreck through so many of them. Economic depressions, revolutions, moral collapse and war – somehow individualist cultures emerged with renewed energy every time. The difficult thing to explain is why these successes seemed merely to feed the appetite for building the perfect society, which, in being necessarily static, would equally necessarily amount to the suppression of the individual.

The reason is, one may suggest, that modern European states have, along with their achievements, also been arenas of spectacular conflict. Further, with advancing technology these conflicts have become immensely destructive. Yet the very technological capacity that causes despair also feeds the hope that our so remarkable civilisation can "construct" a society of perfect harmony.

Individualism has thus become the victim of its own triumphs, and the way in which this has happened is an object lesson in the way in which moral ideas are subverted in our time. The essential precept of individualism as a morality is the belief in responsible choice. Whereas it is in other civilisations most people find themselves under the tutelage of others, the modern individualist was left to do his prudence for himself. Success and failure are important, but in Christian belief the world to come can be called to correct the inevitably imperfect outcomes of human life. But such individual moral responsibility, with failure as the risk, was a remarkably bracing discipline.

In advanced modern democratic societies, however, the sufferings of imprudent people become public issues attracting understandable sympathy. The poor and the improvident both lack the means for medical care or welfare in old age. The state steps in and makes at least some sort of basic provision and obviates much avoidable suffering. Admirable, no doubt, but it quite changes the terms of human life. The self-control that a prudent virtue requires is undermined when the prudent end up no better off than the imprudent.

At the same time, the idea of individualism is vulgarised by removing the condition of responsibility. Freedom is left signifying nothing more than having a pleasurable set of options to choose from. Life becomes a supermarket of experience.

imagined to be costless, and everyone must have a right to them all. But the moment the idea of responsibility is detached from the idea of choosing, then we begin to create a world in which mere impulse rules.

There is no doubt that such a world is morally shallow. What is perhaps less evident is that it also transforms the political world. The individualist acts and takes the consequences. The impulsive acts, and is saved from his folly by the welfare state. This looks like a great human advance – happiness on the cheap, as it were. But like most substitutes for virtue, it has hidden costs. Someone has to do the prudence, supply the responsibility and the ordering of social life. This task falls, of course, to government, which increasingly becomes our master – or, to use the Greek word, despot.

Modern politics thus exhibits a fascinating cycle which begins with the enactment of some new right or liberation – the right to a pension, for example, or medical services free at the point of need – a liberation, perhaps, which rejects inherited sexual restraints.

However, in a generation or so, individual vices turn into social problems, and the government steps in. Caring about old age, which in the 19th century led most people, even those who were very poor, to make some provision for themselves, becomes a legislated duty. Governments now compel what was once a virtue. Free medical care leads to government control over diet and lifestyle. Sexual liberation is more recent, but the emergence of government-enforced puritanism is already on the horizon.

The term individualism has itself become one element of this advancing repression. Because its meaning has been corrupted, it can more easily be derided. Instead of the real thoughtful individualism on which modern civilisation was built, it now refers to the impulsive and irresponsible satisfaction of desires. And this corrupt sense of individualism is coming to be partnered by an equally corrupt sense of community – as fitting in with a single pattern of life over which government presides in greater and greater detail.

*The writer is Emeritus Professor of Political Science at the London School of Economics. This article has been adapted by the writer from a review in this week's "Times Literary Supplement".*



WALTER FRANCIS John Montague Douglas Scott, the septuagenarian ninth Duke of Buccleuch, is with vast estates in Scotland. His acreage is bigger even than the Queen's. He also tipped as a possible future King of the Scots. Is he miffed, I am wondering, by the Government's new plans to buy up badly managed Scottish estates?

The phone at Drumlanrig, his vast fairy-tale castle in Dumfriesshire, is engaged. Apparently, there is only one. Finally, I get through.

"Your Grace," I say, verbally tugging the forelock as I announce myself. "You sound like a racing correspondent," laughs a friendly

English voice that is a cross between Kenneth More and Tony Benn. "Well, you don't sound very Scottish to me," I reply, laughing back.

He is really Scottish? "Of course. There are lots of people who don't have Scottish accents who are Scots. Being Scottish is about the air one breathes. It's the stuff one is made of. If one has walked the countryside as a child and tramped through the mud, one feels close to this land."

Ah, the land. And how much of it does he in fact own? "Just over 400 square miles," he replies as unpomously as possible. That's a small country, I say. "Yes, but 96 per cent of it is windswept hills, defined by the European Union as severely disadvantaged."

But he must agree, mustn't he, that the Scottish aristocracy are not a popular lot? "I don't know what you mean by the Scottish aristocracy," he says, "because we took the reverse attitude down here in the Borders. We created a village, Newcastleton, to provide a base for people so that they could stay in the countryside instead of being drawn overseas and into the cities."

But he must agree, mustn't he, that the Scottish aristocracy are not

a video of it." I offer my pirate copy and he gives me his address, spelling out Drumlanrig. Maybe he would be stirred to claim that King of the Scots title? "Certainly not," says the duke. "I would have no more interest in it than you would have in being King of the Irish." A step up from racing correspondent, I think to myself.

Anyway, what about Labour's plans? "Actually, I looked at them and concluded that they will not affect us. They are designed for exceptionally bad landowners, for whom one really has no sympathy." Nor does the duke mind plans to extend access to private land. "People have been free to walk all over our estates for the last 100 years or more."

Everybody except the duke, that is. For over 20 years, since breaking his back in a riding accident, he has been confined to a wheelchair. Would he swap his lands for legs? "No, I wouldn't. It's not mine to do so. I'm merely a link in a long chain of people who have acquired all of this land by perfectly honourable means. In any case, I'm 75 now and don't have long to go."

Does Britain's largest landlord think he will get to heaven? "If I can get into the House of Commons," laughs this former Conservative MP confidently, "then I can get into heaven. I found enough people to vote me in four times. Did you know that Robin Cook challenged me in 1970? I defeated him comfortably."

## COLD CALL

JACK O'SULLIVAN RINGS THE DUKE OF BUCCLEUCH

Britain's biggest landlord

## BAROMETER

SEAN O'GRADY

Senator of the week  
US Senator Strom Thurmond, who this week swore in Judge Reinquist to preside over the

Clinton trial. He is 96 years of age and, thus, the nearest thing America has to our own Queen Mother. He also has a fancy title, "President Pro-Tempore", which means he is the longest-serving senator, having been first elected in 1948. His flesh is still willing and a number of incidents testify to the enduring strength of his spirit. Only last year he challenged rival senator John Glenn's right to go aboard the space shuttle. "I always believed that if NASA really wanted to study the effect of space travel on older Americans they should have called me". Glenn is only 77, after all.

When Strom was just 94 he faced accusations that he had fondled a woman senator in a lift. Senator Patty Murray, less than half his age at 46 and self-described as "a mom in tennis shoes", said that the older man put his arm round her while he tried to grope her breast and asked in his southern drawl: "Are you married, little lady?". Ideally qualified, then, to act as a juror in the Clinton trial.

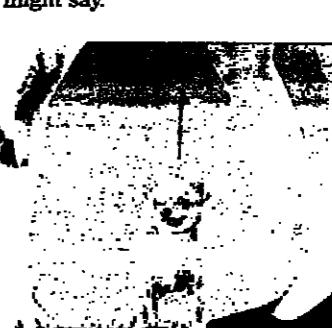
Tribute of the week  
"We shall not see his like again" wrote Paul Routledge in *The Mirror* this week of Gordon Brown's (soon to be ex-) spin doctor Charles Whelan.

"Stash him in the press bar in the Commons, where he is a tireless spinner for Labour, and he works till he drops." There are many witnesses to the intense work that Paul and indeed Charles would do in that establishment until they, the room, or both, stopped spinning.

Bird of the week  
The completion of the Millennium Dome threatens one of the last nesting sites of the black redstart, *Phoenicurus ochruros*, a very rare breeder. Still, what can we expect from the man now in charge, a Lord Falconer?

Lookalike of the week  
Has Peter Mandelson ever been a male model? One wonders. Note the remarkable resemblance between this, one of the Britannia Building Society's "Wallace and Gromit" style advert characters, and their most famous mortgage customer.

Image of the week  
This is the Canon Picture of the Year, taken by Mike Maloney, who works for the Sunday People. It is, in fact, a "remake" of a famous shot by American legend Elliott Erwitt. No matter, though. Every dog has its day, as Strom Thurmond might say.



Who needs Liverpool when you can have Hong Kong? Meet Barry Cox, gearing up for Canto-pop stardom. By Emma Cook

## A wok'n'roll hero is something to be

In a small, packed nightclub in the heart of Liverpool's Chinatown, Barry Cox is creating his usual mayhem among a mainly female audience. Striding across the stage, surrounded by a dozen female dancers, he launches into one of his favourite numbers. "I think I am Chinese. I want to be Chinese," he croons, in an impeccable Cantonese dialect. A young Chinese girl in the front row looks up at him imploringly and mouths back. "I've got a crush on you." The girl standing next to her shouts out, "Are you English or Chinese?" "I'm English. Look at my skin," he replies, and the crowd howls with laughter.

Chinese Elvis impersonators may be commonplace but the cultural compliment has never really been returned. While Western bands have flirted with Oriental styles, taking it on wholesale, sans irony, is something new. Weird, some may say. Such is the self-importance of American and British pop culture, we assume it's perfectly natural that other nations will revere ours and that we take absolutely no interest in theirs.

Twenty-one-year-old Barry, though, in his own modest way, hopes to forge a more enlightened path. "I just feel I'm the bridge between Chinese and English culture. No one bothers to find out about each other. I want to close the gap."

While most 21-year-old boys with any musical aspirations are busy checking their mike techniques in the mirror and perfecting Jarvis Cocker hand movements, Barry is scouring the music shops of Chinatown for the latest CDs from Hong Kong. Forget The Beatles, The Cavern and Liverpool's rich musical heritage. Barry certainly has – his mecca is Hong Kong, where he hopes to take the "Canto-pop" scene



Barry Cox, a Chinese man trapped inside a Liverpudlian's body, at home in the city's Chinatown

by storm. "Ideally, I'd love to be a singer there," he says in a Liverpudlian slur. "I'd also love to be in a John Woo movie."

His first foray into pop stardom, Canto style, came with an impromptu performance during a language class. "Our teacher wanted everyone to do something for New Year and I got up and sang an old Chinese song. After that, I thought I'd love to try pop."

It took him nearly four months to learn one song. "There are nine different ways to say one word. You have to keep practising your high tongue and low tongue." Now he refuses to sing in English. "I can't – I'm always out of tune."

Barry's interest in Chinese cul-

ture kick started with a chance visit to a local chip shop, where he struck up a friendship with a Chinese boy working there. The two taught each other phrases and greetings from one another's language, starting

school, alongside 15-year-old pupils, for his GCSE. "Some of them have got used to me. Others think I'm strange. They laugh at me when I speak up in class." Generally, though, he appears to have earned

learn about their culture," says Barry. "At first, it's hard to be accepted. If you ask them something, they'll cut you off or ignore you. But it's like a mystery for me. I want to get inside their culture, break

*'If I didn't have an interest in everything Chinese, I'd be just a normal person. I just want to be different from everyone else'*

off with "Two spring rolls and a bag of chips to take away, please".

Barry picked it up quickly and was so inspired he began a language course at Liverpool's Pagoda Centre. Now he's studying in a Chinese

the community's respect and enjoys being part of an exclusive club, one that most white people could never hope to join.

"I think they're very happy that someone has taken the trouble to

in and really find out what they're all about."

In his quest to expose the inscrutable, he's immersed himself in an almost obsessive way in every aspect of Chinese history and culture.

TEL: 0171 293 2222

## CLASSIFIED: PERSONAL

FAX: 0171 293 2505

## Voice Personals

THE INDEPENDENT

WOMEN  
SEEKING  
MEN

**WIDOW**  
Attractive, intelligent, fun-loving, adventurous female, loves travel, music, art, fashion, shopping and sports. Age: 40s, slim. Tel: 0121 383 3838, from the South. 01427

**FAIRY TALE**  
Blonde/blue-eyed princess, lonely in her tower, loves dancing, singing, perfume to rescue her. If you're a princess and believe fairy tales can come true phone: Worcestershire/West Midlands. 0121 244213

**CHINESE GUEST**  
Independent, professional woman, 45, loves music, visual arts, hillsides walks, travel, good food and fun socialising. seeks tall, warm, sensible man, 40s, with a sense of humour. Tel: 0121 244212

**SOUTH EAST BASED**  
Do you like going to galleries, shopping, eating out? If so, then at least we have something in common. Tel: 0121 244212

**LAST CHANCE BEFORE L...**  
Last chance before I'm a widow, 24, 54", GSOH, N/S enjoys dancing, clubbing, eating out and general socialising, seeks attractive, fun-loving, sensible man, 30s-40s, with a good sense of humour. Tel: 0121 244212

**GLoucestershire**  
Wifey, independent, some time ago, I was a widow, now I'm a widow again. Tel: 0121 244212

**YOUNG PRINCE & SINGER**  
Smart, attractive, black female, 24, 54", GSOH, N/S enjoys dancing, clubbing, eating out and general socialising, seeks attractive, fun-loving, sensible man, 30s-40s, with a good sense of humour. Tel: 0121 244212

**PROFESSIONAL**  
Professional, but attractive, successful, slim female, 40s, into theatre, racket sports, keep-fit, seeks tall, attractive, confident, successful man, 40s, with a good sense of humour. Tel: 0121 244212

**CLASSY BRUNETTE**  
Professional, attractive, intelligent, successful, slim female, 40s, into theatre, racket sports, keep-fit, seeks tall, attractive, confident, successful man, 40s, with a good sense of humour. Tel: 0121 244212

**YOUNG & FREE & SINGLE**  
Smart, attractive, black female, 24, 54", GSOH, N/S enjoys dancing, clubbing, eating out and general socialising, seeks attractive, fun-loving, sensible man, 30s-40s, with a good sense of humour. Tel: 0121 244212

**LAST CHANCE BEFORE L...**  
Last chance before I'm a widow, 24, 54", GSOH, N/S enjoys dancing, clubbing, eating out and general socialising, seeks attractive, fun-loving, sensible man, 30s-40s, with a good sense of humour. Tel: 0121 244212

**WIDOW**  
Wifey, independent, some time ago, I was a widow, now I'm a widow again. Tel: 0121 244212

**NEW YEAR - NEW START**  
Young, outgoing female, 55+, slim, attractive, enjoys lots of things, will try anything once, seeks outgoing, considerate man, 40-50s, 5'10", for friendship, possibly more. Tel: 0121 244212

**SEARCH IN LONDON**  
Pretty, intelligent, affectionate, funny, well-educated female, 30s, seeking a sensible male, for life together. Tel: 0121 244212

**WIDOW**  
Widow, 55+, slim, attractive, good temperament, for soul mate, to spend the new year with and beyond. Tel: 0121 244212

**WIDOW**  
Widow, 55+, slim, attractive, good temperament, for soul mate, to spend the new year with and beyond. Tel: 0121 244212

**WIDOW**  
Widow, 55+, slim, attractive, good temperament, for soul mate, to spend the new year with and beyond. Tel: 0121 244212

**WIDOW**  
Widow, 55+, slim, attractive, good temperament, for soul mate, to spend the new year with and beyond. Tel: 0121 244212

**WIDOW**  
Widow, 55+, slim, attractive, good temperament, for soul mate, to spend the new year with and beyond. Tel: 0121 244212

**WIDOW**  
Widow, 55+, slim, attractive, good temperament, for soul mate, to spend the new year with and beyond. Tel: 0121 244212

**WIDOW**  
Widow, 55+, slim, attractive, good temperament, for soul mate, to spend the new year with and beyond. Tel: 0121 244212

**WIDOW**  
Widow, 55+, slim, attractive, good temperament, for soul mate, to spend the new year with and beyond. Tel: 0121 244212

**WIDOW**  
Widow, 55+, slim, attractive, good temperament, for soul mate, to spend the new year with and beyond. Tel: 0121 244212

**WIDOW**  
Widow, 55+, slim, attractive, good temperament, for soul mate, to spend the new year with and beyond. Tel: 0121 244212

**WIDOW**  
Widow, 55+, slim, attractive, good temperament, for soul mate, to spend the new year with and beyond. Tel: 0121 244212

**WIDOW**  
Widow, 55+, slim, attractive, good temperament, for soul mate, to spend the new year with and beyond. Tel: 0121 244212

**WIDOW**  
Widow, 55+, slim, attractive, good temperament, for soul mate, to spend the new year with and beyond. Tel: 0121 244212

**WIDOW**  
Widow, 55+, slim, attractive, good temperament, for soul mate, to spend the new year with and beyond. Tel: 0121 244212

**WIDOW**  
Widow, 55+, slim, attractive, good temperament, for soul mate, to spend the new year with and beyond. Tel: 0121 244212

**WIDOW**  
Widow, 55+, slim, attractive, good temperament, for soul mate, to spend the new year with and beyond. Tel: 0121 244212

**WIDOW**  
Widow, 55+, slim, attractive, good temperament, for soul mate, to spend the new year with and beyond. Tel: 0121 244212

**WIDOW**  
Widow, 55+, slim, attractive, good temperament, for soul mate, to spend the new year with and beyond. Tel: 0121 244212

**WIDOW**  
Widow, 55+, slim, attractive, good temperament, for soul mate, to spend the new year with and beyond. Tel: 0121 244212

**WIDOW**  
Widow, 55+, slim, attractive, good temperament, for soul mate, to spend the new year with and beyond. Tel: 0121 244212

**WIDOW**  
Widow, 55+, slim, attractive, good temperament, for soul mate, to spend the new year with and beyond. Tel: 0121 244212

**WIDOW**  
Widow, 55+, slim, attractive, good temperament, for soul mate, to spend the new year with and beyond. Tel: 0121 244212

**WIDOW**  
Widow, 55+, slim, attractive, good temperament, for soul mate, to spend the new year with and beyond. Tel: 0121 244212

**WIDOW**  
Widow, 55+, slim, attractive, good temperament, for soul mate, to spend the new year with and beyond. Tel: 0121 244212

**WIDOW**  
Widow, 55+, slim, attractive, good temperament, for soul mate, to spend the new year with and beyond. Tel: 0121 244212

**WIDOW**  
Widow, 55+, slim, attractive, good temperament, for soul mate, to spend the new year with and beyond. Tel: 0121 244212

**WIDOW**  
Widow, 55+, slim, attractive, good temperament, for soul mate, to spend the new year with and beyond. Tel: 0121 244212

**WIDOW**  
Widow, 55+, slim, attractive, good temperament, for soul mate, to spend the new year with and beyond. Tel: 0121 244212

**WIDOW**  
Widow, 55+, slim, attractive, good temperament, for soul mate, to spend the new year with and beyond. Tel: 0121 244212

**WIDOW**  
Widow, 55+, slim, attractive, good temperament, for soul mate, to spend the new year with and beyond. Tel: 0121 244212

**WIDOW**  
Widow, 55+, slim, attractive, good temperament, for soul mate, to spend the new year with and beyond. Tel: 0121 244212

**WIDOW**  
Widow, 55+, slim, attractive, good temperament, for soul mate, to spend the new year with and beyond. Tel: 0121 244212

**WIDOW**  
Widow, 55+, slim, attractive, good temperament, for soul mate, to spend the new year with and beyond. Tel: 0121 244212

**WIDOW**  
Widow, 55+, slim, attractive, good temperament, for soul mate, to spend the new year with and beyond. Tel: 0121 244212

**WIDOW**  
Widow, 55+, slim, attractive, good temperament, for soul mate, to spend the new year with and beyond. Tel: 0121 244212

**WIDOW**  
Widow, 55+, slim, attractive, good temperament, for soul mate, to spend the new year with and beyond. Tel: 0121 244212

**WIDOW**  
Widow, 55+, slim, attractive, good temperament, for soul mate, to spend the new year with and beyond. Tel: 0121 244212

**WIDOW**  
Widow, 55+, slim, attractive, good temperament, for soul mate, to spend the new year with and beyond. Tel: 0121 244212

**WIDOW**  
Widow, 55+, slim, attractive, good temperament, for soul mate, to spend the new year with and beyond. Tel: 0121 244212

**WIDOW**  
Widow, 55+, slim, attractive, good temperament, for soul mate, to spend the new year with and beyond. Tel: 0121 244212

**WIDOW**  
Widow, 55+, slim, attractive, good temperament, for soul mate, to spend the new year with and beyond. Tel: 0121 244212

**WIDOW**  
Widow, 55+, slim, attractive, good temperament, for soul mate, to spend the new year with and beyond. Tel: 0121 244212

**WIDOW**  
Widow, 55+, slim, attractive, good temperament, for soul mate, to spend the new year with and beyond. Tel: 0121 244212

**WIDOW**  
Widow, 55+, slim, attractive, good temperament, for soul mate, to spend the new year with and beyond. Tel: 0121 244212

**WIDOW**  
Widow, 55+, slim, attractive, good temperament, for soul mate, to spend the new year with and beyond. Tel: 0121 244212

**WIDOW**  
Widow, 55+, slim, attractive, good temperament, for soul mate, to spend the new year with and beyond. Tel: 0121 244212

**WIDOW**  
Widow, 55+, slim, attractive, good temperament, for soul mate, to spend the new year with and beyond. Tel: 0121 244212

**WIDOW**  
Widow, 55+, slim, attractive, good temperament, for soul mate, to spend the new year with and beyond. Tel: 0121 244212

**WIDOW**  
Widow, 55+, slim, attractive, good temperament, for soul mate, to spend the new year with and beyond. Tel: 0121 244212

**WIDOW**  
Widow, 55+, slim, attractive, good temperament, for soul mate, to spend the new year with and beyond. Tel: 0121 244212

**WIDOW**

Emma Cook  
to be

# Do ya think I'm sixty?

Rachel Hunter's decision to leave her husband Rod Stewart in order to 'find herself' is another poignant reminder of the plight of the ageing rock star. By David Thomas

**I**t's a tough life being an ageing rock megastar. One minute you're trolling round the stadia of America and Britain, singing "Do ya think I'm sexy?" Then the next, your wife replies with, "Well, no I don't, now you come to mention it" and heads off to "find herself" without you.

And so it was that Rachel Hunter walked out on Rod Stewart, an event so momentous that it was announced on Radio 1's Today programme, right up there with the crisis in Sierra Leone and the latest disasters in Kosovo. Some might see this as another example of the BBC's infamous dumbing-down, a pathetic attempt to be trendy and demotic, like the church's equation of Jesus Christ and Che Guevara. But that would be to misunderstand the deeper significance of Rod's tragic love-split.

Here is a man who, barely three years ago, was getting togged up in a cream satin frock-coat to re-pledge his troth to his wife in wedding-dress and fur-trimmed cloak, while *Hello!* magazine observed: "Their children, family and friends gather to witness the singer and his wife repeat their wedding vows in a romantic winter ceremony."

Just last August, he was telling *Q* magazine that "Rachel's a great woman. I can't find any fault with her." He boasted that, "I'm still very rampant, very horny all the time."

And if the sex and rock 'n' roll were still in working order, so were the drugs. "I haven't stopped drinking, because she likes drinking too. She

*These men may be ludicrously rich, but their tastes and inclinations were formed almost half a century ago*

lets me do a little bit of substance. I never carry it, but if someone's got some I'll have a little line, and that will be the end of it."

You couldn't have hoped to find a happier rock hubby. But if Rod was contented, Rachel was not. Unattributed "friends" have told the tabloids that the Kiwi cutie was bored by her husband's lifestyle. When not working, he liked to sit around the house, tinkering with his train-set or watching the TV. From time to time, he'd get the lads round to kick a ball about the 118 x 84 yard football pitch he'd had specially-built at his Essex mansion, or take his Californian ex-pat pals off on football tours of the States. Trips to the pub would be spent "telling old war-stories and boozing" with his mates.

No wonder his pretty young bride felt dissatisfied, yearned to break free, longed for a world in which one could talk about something other than Scotland's World Cup campaigns, 1974-82. And here we get to the nub of it, the skull beneath the media skin. For the parting of the 54-year-old warbler and his 30-year-old spouse is not only a salutary warning to all rich middle-aged men contemplating the acquisition of a trophy wife, but also an elegiac reflection of passing time, worthy of deeper contemplation.

Rod is typical of an entire generation of rockers whose reputations were founded on youthful hedonism, but whose every instinct now cries out for a calmer life of carpet slippers and quiet nights in.

These are groovers who'd rather be geezers. They may have ludicrous amounts of money (Stewart's own fortune is estimated at between £50-60m; he last year received £9.2m for the rights to his next 12 years of publishing income), but



Rachel Hunter and Rod Stewart; she'd prefer 'a groover rather than an old geezer'

their tastes and inclinations were formed almost half a century ago, in very different conditions to the ones they now inhabit.

Rod's friend and former band member Ronnie Wood, for example, will happily spend an afternoon in a Dublin pub, drinking Guinness, chatting about his dogs and his horses and the blues band he plays in with his brothers Art and Ted, both of whom are in their sixties. Ron would natter away all night, except that the missus tends to drag him back home, whereupon he trots off behind her like a penitent Afghan hound.

Similarly, Ron's current musical partner, Keith Richards, reminisces about the days of rationing, National Service, and a boyhood spent playing around old bomb-sites and gun-emplacements. When the last Stones tour ended, he wound down at his home in West Wittering, down on the Sussex retirement coast.

"God's little acre," he calls it. Keith's a familiar figure in the Wittering pubs. He gave £30,000 to the village hall appeal. The locals love him.

Men like that should be settling down with sensible women, of their own age, who are happy to get on with their own interests - gardening, say, or charity work - while their



Mick, Ronnie and Keith: 'their instincts cry out for carpet slippers and quiet nights in'

partners play at being rock stars, or chunter with their chums in the pub. But a rock star's career depends on the illusion, however faded, of youthful vigour. His image, as well as his ego, demands a constant supply of fresh young flesh.

And so we have the tragic sight of Mick Jagger - a natural Tory, an expert on antiques, loves to spend a day at the cricket - getting him-

self caught up in a pathetic paternity case because he simply couldn't say no to a quickie with a Brazilian bimbo. So, too, the end of Rod Stewart's marriage will surely be followed by a hazing of blonde models that will be embarrassing for us to behold as it will be dissatisfaction for him.

Rod knows this. Before he met Rachel Hunter, he was "flying

birds in from everywhere and shagging them - I was so unhappy". He is condemned to repeat this torment again. And yet, all the while, he will be longing for the days when he could play with his model trains, have a pint with his mates and then come home to the missus. Thus it is that the rake's progress comes, as always, to a miserable end. Pitiful Rodney. His situation is, by any definition, tragic.

**PARK LIFE**



BRUCE MILLAR

my wife, might suggest that it was foolish of me to pit myself against my sons in physical competition, that it was misleading, even dangerous

for me to link their respect for me with physical dominance, and that the dent in my male ego was just what I deserved. All this may be so, but the instinct for physical competition is embedded deep in the male psyche. Surely it is better to compete openly and laugh at it than to keep it secret and serious - and much more malign.

The only absolutely vivid memory I have of what I am sure was an otherwise enjoyable family holiday when I was Darcy's age is of spending summer afternoons engaged in long-jump contests with my father (it must have been an Olympic year). I can't remember who won - the result was not important - but I can close my eyes and summon the

competition at a moment's notice. I also have, from the same era, a terrible and guilty memory of losing my temper with my father, who laughed at me so much in the wrestle that followed that he lost his balance and I was able to knock him off his feet. I hated this victory more than the humiliation that preceded it, because it upset what I instinctively knew to be the natural order of things.

Perhaps this was the mirror image of what I felt when beaten on rollerblades by Darcy. Whatever, I took the boys out blading again a few days later; this time to a broad, open space where I could devise a course more suited to my lumbering style than the tight turns where Darcy had left me standing. We raced round this wide circuit in the gloom of a winter's afternoon, and I managed - just - to keep ahead of Darcy, although I was still far behind Tom.

## My sons knock chips off the old bloke

"COME ON Dad," the boys urged as I puffed and struggled in their wake. I pumped my elbows, pushed as hard as I could with each foot, but try as I might I couldn't persuade the wheels in my rollerblades to spin fast enough to catch them.

I thought no more of it until we were sitting down to lunch and I happened to mention that I couldn't keep up with the boys. Tom, who despises all sports anyway, was merciless. "Dad's never been able to keep up with me, because he's a wimp," he pronounced. Then he really dug the knife in. "And he's old - he's just a sad old man."

Steady on, Tom, I thought but didn't say, this is a tricky moment for me. For the first time I have been

sounding defeated by my own sons in a physical contest; what I need is a little sympathy. This, I recognised, was an important rite of passage for me - and it signified the start of the return journey. Up to now, each rite has been a marker on the voyage upwards towards maturity: first day at school, first night away from home, first girlfriend, first job, first child and so on.

There I was, until a week or two ago, cruising along in the back straight, thinking I was in the very prime of life, only to discover that I had reached a turning point - and it is all downhill from here. Soon enough, the boys will be beating me at any sport they choose; they'll have

to "take it easy" when we go for a walk, to avoid tiring me out; they'll offer to carry my bag, and help out with heavy jobs around the house, or drive me to the doctor for a check-up...

Of course I knew it would come to this, eventually. But I was not ready yet, not for a good few years. After all, Darcy still hasn't turned eight - and he's a skin-and-bone strip of a boy with great knobby knees and the diet of a supermodel supplemented by as many sweets as he can get his hands on. I am a grown man. I eat healthily, exercise thoroughly, and was banking on keeping him in his place at least until he was a hulking teenager.

Sensible people, starting with



Sue Mattocks: keen to get back to normality John Cobb

## When I walk in they all clap

### MY WEEK

**FIVE DAYS IN THE LIFE OF SUE MATTOCKS, 42, HEAD OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES AT CLARENDON HOUSE GIRLS GRAMMAR SCHOOL WHO THIS WEEK RETURNED TO WORK. SHE WAS AMONG 16 WESTERN TOURISTS KIDNAPPED BY TERRORISTS IN THE YEMEN LAST WEEK**

#### Sunday

Wake up at around 8am, relieved to be back home. I go out to buy the newspapers to find out why this had happened and who those people were. At 11am I am a reporter and a photographer from a tabloid arrive to do an interview. Later I get on the scales and I discover I have lost three-quarters of a stone, most of it through fear and adrenaline. I am very shocked to have lost so much weight as I thought I had been eating normally.

#### Monday

I read my interview in *The Mirror*, worried that they would sentimentalise the issue, but it was OK. I didn't like getting my photo taken, as I'm not Cindy Crawford, but fortunately I look all right. *This Morning* want me to go on the programme, I talk to my headteacher, as I am concerned about the publicity for the school. Jane Bennett tells me that I should do the interview. "It's only going to happen to you once."

I am keen to get back, as I want some normality and I want to see people. The head says, "by all means come in, and see how you go". There is no pressure on me; the school is wonderful.

I phone the hospital where Margaret Thompson is and leave a message to send my love. I travelled with a really good group of people in Yemen. We went through such a lot. I'm sure we'll be in touch. But I think we all need some space at the moment.

#### Tuesday

At the television studios I am not nervous, because teachers are used to performing, standing up in front of classes and sometimes making idiots of themselves. The make-up girl says, "You're a good colour", and I think well, I have just been held hostage, standing up in the sun for hours. I am then asked to look at some video footage of Yemen to see

whether it will be appropriate. It isn't unpleasant or horrible. I recognise the architecture and the landscapes.

#### Wednesday

Get up just after 6am and go into school. I teach religious studies and have a GCSE class in the morning. When I walk in all the children clap. They have also bought me a box of chocolates.

I take assembly in the hall at 9am. I say: "I am happy to be back, but you must remember that people have died. Can we sit quietly for a few moments to remember the families?" I nearly cry at this point. I am feeling really wound up.

In the evening I decide that what I want to do is write a detailed account of the abduction. It takes about four hours. I have typed 10 pages and it is midnight when I go to bed. Writing it isn't traumatic but I want to get the sequence of events right. I am not entirely sure what I want to do with it, but I am glad to have got it all down.

#### Thursday

At school I make a couple of photocopies of my account and put them on the general staff noticeboard. During the day Dawn Ball, head of maths, takes it down and photocopies it 20 times, asking me why I didn't copy it for everyone. I thought people would ask a few questions; I didn't think they would want a blow-by-blow account. I am very touched.

At lunch time I go to my doctor: I have suffered no physical injury but want to be sure I'm OK. I ask the practice nurse to take my blood pressure. She laughs, because it's lower than when I last had it checked. I thought it would have gone through the roof.

I have a lesson in the afternoon with my A-level group. We're quite close, and some come up to give me a hug. It's very touching...

DAISY PRICE

# Petra Tegetmeier

FOR HER father, Eric Gill, she was the perfect adolescent muse. For her one-time fiancé David Jones, she was the only sitter he could comfortably paint in front of.

Her father's wood-engravings caught her in the bath-tub, combing her hair; shy, demure and never meeting his eye. Jones's swirling lines of pencil and watercolour depict a brooding earth goddess, sometimes stern, sometimes brimming with sensual energy. Always with a glance that suggested, "I know your sort."

The real Petra Tegetmeier (née Gill) was far more vital and ebullient than the male gaze ever gave her credit for. When Gill's wife was carrying the unborn Petra, their second child, she first felt the baby's flickering movements on a trip to Rome. Eric Gill, not yet a Catholic, was absorbed by the inscriptions on the Trajan column, but years later, when his daughters made a pilgrimage to Rome, he attached poetic significance to this "quenching" in the holy city.

The family converted to Catholicism in 1913 when Petra was seven years old. Their home was on Ditchling Common, Sussex, in close proximity to the craft workshops where Gill made his sculptures and ran his lettering workshop. Women bore the brunt of domestic work here, in arduous conditions with no running water or electricity. The printer Hilary Pepler and his young family lived nearby. Pepler ran St Dominic's Press and like Gill he longed to reinvent society along rural, non-industrial lines. Self-sufficiency was applauded, health visitors and any invasion into one's domestic life by government bodies were viewed with scorn.

The calligrapher Edward Johnston lived in Ditchling village, and worked on projects with Gill, but as his family was not Catholic the children's lives were not so intertwined. The sensitive Petra remembered Johnston's daughters hiding upstairs when she visited the household: "I don't think our faith was the problem so much as their laughter at our hand-made clothes."

Petra and her sisters, Betty and

Joan, were home-schooled: erratic teaching from their busy father, other artists and craftspeople from the community, and the occasional well-meaning outsider; sympathetic to their cause. One such teacher insisted on keeping her pet dog in the impromptu classroom and it barked all through maths. The girls all produced beautiful art work: both stylised Christian imagery after their father; and, when left to their own devices, plump mothers pushing prams. There was sometimes a yearning for the more ordinary side

*David Jones depicted her as a brooding earth goddess – always with a glance that suggested, 'I know your sort'*

of life to be recognised. When Eric Gill carved a wooden doll for Petra with a solemn expression and pig-tails she couldn't help wishing that it had fair skin and curly hair.

In her mid-teens Petra "walked out" with Pepler's son Stephen. Once they did not return from the South Downs until dusk and a search party was sent. Stephen became a Dominican Friar and distinguished theological writer – Father Conrad Pepler. Gill's wood-engravings of Petra, *Girl in the Bath*, *Hair Combing* and *The Plait* (1922-23), along with a small stone sculpture of her which now graces the book jacket of Judith Collins's 1998 catalogue raisonné of Gill's sculpture, all capture Petra's teenage magic, but did not cage it.

At 16 she escaped her patriarch's territory to train locally as a weaver with the tenacious and inspiring

Ethel Mairi. Mairi was a pioneer in the revival of hand-weaving in Britain. Petra used to giggle at the memory of her own hopeless arithmetic when it came to measuring or adding percentages. She would also poke fun at the "superior" visitors to Mairi's workshop who refused to believe that she was weaving with silk because it did not have a shiny artificial finish. Petra was forever fascinated by the texture and detail of handmade cloth.

In 1922 Petra became engaged to the artist and poet David Jones, who was working with her father at Ditchling. Their betrothal was blessed in the chapel on the common and their relationship was intimate – Jones's painting *The Garden Enclosed* (1924), now in the Tate, records a kiss amongst the geese with Gill's carved wooden doll discarded on the path beside them. When Petra broke off the engagement, fearing that Jones did not in reality favour the family life she yearned for, Jones was devastated, but they remained lifelong friends.

Petra then became engaged to the engraver, letterer, cartoonist and Trappist monk Denis Tegetmeier. They married in 1930. She wore her own wedding dress, and the Penelope within ensured that this was a piece of weaving that she did not unpick. They had a long and happy marriage lasting until his death in 1987.

Petra loved children. Her own four daughters and two sons grew up in Eric Gill's last home, Pigott's. Their parents encouraged their interest in craft and the visual arts – Charlotte went on to found the wonderfully resourceful toyshop and mail-order catalogue "Tridias". William is a thatcher, Adam a photographer, Judith painter, and both Prudence and Petra's niece Helen Davies spin and weave.

Well into her eighties, Petra lived alone in a converted weaver's Chapel in Avoncliff, near Bradford-upon-Avon, with several of her children as near neighbours. There were thrifts winding out from pots



*The Plait*, by Eric Gill: a 1922 portrait of his daughter Petra

on the floor and obscuring the television screen, books crowding the shelves and flowered wrap-around aprons hanging on the kitchen door. When a stroke forced her to move into a nursing home, she made sure her interior was recreated as far as was possible, and she took tapestry work and her spinning wheel with her.

Petra Tegetmeier had long been idolised by men for her calmness and serenity but she was in many ways a woman's woman. She was most at home in the company of women, eating cake on the bench in her garden, thriving on anecdotes and laughing at some plastic "Transformer" toy vehicle which a grandchild had left in the shrubbery. She could also make art dealers squirm in their shoes just by pursing her lips.

When Fiona MacCarthy's biography *Eric Gill* (1989) revealed from the evidence of Gill's diaries, his sex-

ual relations with his two eldest daughters Petra remained unfathomable in the face of media furore. She made it clear that her own attitude to sex had not been harmed. The sisters had never been made to feel shame.

In another era I could imagine Petra having a second career as a child therapist. She had an intuitive grasp of human dilemmas and could convey comfort and affection without the need for many words. She was devoid of condescension, brilliantly combined self-mockery with a subtle self-assurance, and was, without a doubt, one of the most knowing people I have ever met.

LOTTIE HOARE

Petra Helen Gill, weaver: born London 18 August 1906; married 1930 Denis Tegetmeier (died 1987; two sons, four daughters); died Limpley Stoke, Wiltshire 1 January 1999.

MIKE STEYN played an unusual part in the musical life of this country, particularly in the folk revival of the Sixties and Seventies.

While other record companies and producers responded to public interest by promoting the forgotten or neglected treasures of Anglo-American folk music, Steyn went beyond the confines of the West, to Africa and Asia. He launched a number of outstanding musicians and singers, some celebrated in their own countries but unknown in Britain, others new and obscure, and launched their international careers. Their music inspired and influenced musicians and singer-songwriters as diverse as Paul Simon and Peter Gabriel, and bands such as Genesis and Fairport Convention.

A fine musician himself, with an unerring ear for tone and colour, Steyn sensed the potential of artists on first hearing them. His high musical standards and his unusual disregard for commercial gain made Tangent Records, the company he started in the late Sixties, a badge of quality. He distributed his productions world-wide through record companies with aims and reputations similar to his own, among them the distinguished Harmonia Mundi in France and Lyrichord in the United States. As a result many of his recordings have endured and become classics of the genre.



Tangent Records

Though a dedicated musician, Steyn was too modest and independent to promote himself in the competitive world of international conducting, yet he was not content with musicals – his interest was in the works of classical composers, in particular Mozart, Beethoven and Mahler. So he left the profession to work as an independent record producer, learning the ropes from Lionel Segal, the director of Strike Records, then a well-known folk music label.

His own first records were with the northern comedians Blaster Bates and Peter Mallory (who had been a Trappist monk), and they became huge hits, particularly the two seemed incompatible.

Blaster Bates series of LPs which are still selling. Steyn could have continued in that field and made a great deal of money, but he was never motivated by money – he followed his heart. With the proceeds from these first hits he started Tangent Records.

Tangent's first three records were of Ethiopian folk music, recorded in Ethiopia by the late Jean Jenkins, then the Curator of Music at the Horniman Museum. Other recordings followed, and in 1978 he released a box of six LPs of music from all over the Islamic world, to coincide with the World of Islam Festival in London – it is now a collectors' item. There followed seven records of Scottish music with Edinburgh University, three LPs with Mustafa Tettey-Addy, the Ghanaian drummer and one of Africa's best-loved musicians, and many more – some 120 recordings of music from all over the world.

When he sensed that his job was done, he left to return to classical music and composition, handing over Tangent's distribution to Blaster Bates, one of Britain's oldest and best folk labels. Unfortunately he also discovered he had cancer. He devoted the same single-minded effort he had deployed in his work to combat his illness, and succeeded in winning long periods of remission – he was given six months by his doctors and lived six years.

I met Mike Steyn with Jean Jenkins in 1969, and sang him a Persian folksong. He gave me a contract for an LP. We recorded *Persian Love Songs and Mystic Chants* almost a cappella, with just a touch of flute and hand-drum in his studio – the crypt of a church in Holland Road, London. A second record followed, of English songs, which led to my receiving offers from major record companies.

Far from binding me with lifelong contracts – at a time when record producers were taking options even on their artists' children, in case they became musicians too – he let me go, saying that his label was too specialised for me. He had the true artist's generosity and humility, and we remained friends. I never received a record without first consulting him.

I made one more record with him, *From East to West*, a fusion of Persian and Western music, produced and arranged by Paul Buckmaster (the arranger of, among others, Elton John and Mick Jagger). Both these records of Persian traditional songs are still extant, on Tangent in Britain and on Lyrichord in the US.

SHUSA GUPPY

Michael Eugene Steyn, record producer: born Cape Town 23 July 1931; married 1956 Wendy Muntan (one son); died London 3 January 1999.

## Irene Serkin

FAMILIES DON'T come more musical than those that surrounded Irene Serkin during the course of her long life, both the one she grew up in and the one she created.

She was born Irene Busch in Vienna in 1917, the daughter of Adolf Busch, who was perhaps the supreme representative of the German school of string-playing, and of Frieda Grutner, issue of another family of outstanding musical ability. For nearly six decades, Irene was the wife of Rudolf Serkin, one of this century's most dignified and perceptive pianists. And her own immediate family boasts the pianist Peter Serkin, the horn-player John Serkin and four musician daughters.

The story of how Irene Busch encountered her husband has a fairytale quality to it. She was only three years old when her father met Rudolf Serkin, then 17, gawky and

nervous, in the apartment of Karl Gombrich (father of Sir Ernst) in Vienna. The two musicians very soon formed a duo-partnership and before long Busch had invited the young pianist to live with his family. At this point Irene, barely past the toddler stage, told Serkin that she would marry him when she grew up – and that is exactly what she did. When Irene reached 17 herself, she and Serkin were wed, in 1935, in Basel.

It would be difficult to say that she grew up anywhere in particular: Berlin, Darmstadt, and Switzerland, perhaps, but more often than not she would be on tour with her father, travelling the length and breadth of Europe – and thus, like her husband, she had very little formal education.

Adolf Busch was conscious of his duty to the masterpieces of the Austro-German repertoire. He played the Beethoven Concerto, for

example, no fewer than 400 times in the course of his career. But he was implacably opposed to the Nazi regime and, at considerable cost to himself, vowed never to play in Germany as long as the Nazis remained in power. (In this he showed a rather sobering insight than the Nazi Wilhelm Furtwängler, who thought he could defend German music from within the Nazi fold.) The Busches and Serkin, having moved to Switzerland in 1937, thus left Germany permanently in 1933.

The Serkins continued to Philadelphia in 1939 when Rudolf was appointed to the staff of the Curtis Institute there, first taking over Josef Hofmann's masterclasses and later becoming director of the Institute. Irene's father and mother followed her to America after a bungled attempt by the Nazis to kidnap Busch and drag him back to Germany.

Irene Serkin was not herself an outstanding string-player, but she was good enough to play in the Busch Chamber Players from the foundation of the group in 1935. And she would always play violin or viola in Marlboro concerts, often in music written by her father. She was an easier player. She and her husband offered

many this house was temptingly near the German border, Busch got wind of their plans and made sure he was not at home when the Gestapo came to call.

United in the States, Irene's father, uncle (the cellist Herman Busch) and husband – together with the French flautist Marcel Moyse and his musician son and daughter-in-law, Louis and Blanche Moyse – founded the Marlboro Music Festival in Vermont in 1951. Marlboro was to be the focus of much of Serkin's life from then on.

Irene Serkin was not herself an outstanding string-player, but she was good enough to play in the Busch Chamber Players from the foundation of the group in 1935. And she would always play violin or viola in Marlboro concerts, often in music written by her father. She was an easier player. She and her husband offered

helping hands to countless young musicians over the decades, and she played a prominent role in the musical life of the community around her. The warmth that was a marked feature of the atmosphere at Marlboro was owed in good measure to her.

Her end was as charmed as her life. She had suffered from heart problems but had shown no particular discomfort when she went shopping to find a Christmas tree to adorn her family hearth. Returning home, she took to bed for her usual nap and died peacefully in her sleep.

MARTIN ANDERSON

Irene Busch, musician: born Vienna 21 June 1917; married 1935 Rudolf Serkin (died 1994; two sons, five daughters, and one daughter deceased); died Guildford, Vermont 1 December 1998.



Irene Busch and Rudolf Serkin in 1935, the year they married, at the Maggio Musicale Fiorentino. Tully Potter Collection

## George Steedman

GEORGE STEEDMAN was one of the most remarkable characters ever to find a niche in the BBC, doing far more than most to make its reputation resound so splendidly around the world.

Soon after the Second World War he was responsible for the creation of the BBC's European Service. The Continent – then starved of information and intellectual sustenance – presented a unique broadcasting opportunity. The news service was to be a sort of Third Programme aimed at an important audience of so-called "opinion formers". Intellectual probity and freedom of expression – a freedom which the home-based services were never quite able to achieve – were the watchwords.

Of course it was highly educational. George Steedman was always a teacher. Both his parents were teachers, his wife Nan, also a teacher, was the daughter of his old headmaster Steedman but his teaching via a microphone, but he also taught his own broadcasters how to broadcast, on the basis of talking one to one, to be an invited guest in someone else's sitting room. He was a Yorkshireman born and bred but quite unlike the sturdy salt-of-the-earth Yorkshire stereotype. Perhaps Emily Brontë got it right – he was prickly, difficult, temperamental.

He won a scholarship to Cambridge, reading English and gaining a First at Selwyn College. His college was then known as a training ground for young clergymen, something Steedman resented. This was one of his silly resentments, like being born in 1916, doomed from the outset. War indeed came before there was any opportunity of establishing himself in a career. He went into the Field Security Police, a sort of Intelligence unit, and was badly wounded. Recovering his education he reassured himself with a period in the Forces Education Services. It was an easy step to the BBC.

The European Service was situated in Bush House, a far more promising place to be in than Broadcasting House. It was within walking distance of Parliament, theatres, galleries, university colleges including the London School of Economics, Fleet Street, which then held every journalist of note. Bush House itself was full of a dazzling mix of continental refugees, Russian, French, German, Italian, a hub of post-war intellectual excitement.

The European Service under Steedman's guidance lived up to this. Every subject was covered at its highest level and best. He was the first to employ a full-time science correspondent, a subject only just beginning in journalism. Francis Crick was an early contributor before DNA and the Nobel Prize hit the headlines; Bruno Bruni-Rossi began his broadcasting career under Steedman. The arts were not forgotten, Henry Moore and Barbara Hepworth were other firsts for the service and Matthew Smith gave it his only venture into broadcasting. Lord Denning contributed a series on justice and morality, Bertrand Russell spoke on power and Aneurin Bevan on loyalty, Hugh Gaitskell on equality.

These people came not for the money, nor the kudos, but often for the stimulation which George Steedman provided, the dialectic argument which made brains buzz. He could be brutal, even cruel, in his contempt for any failure to come up to his standards. Many was a slammed door that reverberated after angry departures from his office. But he also enjoyed an intense loyalty and gratitude from those that worked closest with him and many went on to fine careers. Joan Roche and Joanna Scott Moncrieff became pillars of the BBC's forever popular *Woman's Hour*.

Steedman was never a conventional "corporate" personality. Not for him the convivial canteen lunch or office intrigue at the club bar. He would sit long hours brooding at his desk and if interrupted might treat

ANNE SYMONDS

George Steedman, broadcaster: born Catterick, North Yorkshire 9 March 1916; married 1945 Nan Scandars (two sons, one daughter); died Malton, North Yorkshire 31 December 1998.

helping hands to countless young musicians over the decades, and she played a prominent role in the musical life of the community around her. The warmth that was a marked feature of the atmosphere at Marlboro was owed in good measure to her.

Her end was as charmed as her life. She had suffered from heart problems but had shown no particular discomfort when she went shopping to find a Christmas tree to adorn her family hearth. Returning home, she took to bed for her usual nap and died peacefully in her sleep.

MARTIN ANDERSON

Irene Busch, musician: born Vienna 21 June 1917; married 1935 Rudolf Serkin (died 1994; two sons, five daughters, and one daughter deceased); died Guildford, Vermont 1 December 1998.



# The race against time

Radically old-fashioned – that's how Stephen Poliakoff describes his latest TV drama. What can he mean? By David Benedict

**F**irst of all, clearly, I don't have a video camera. And for the first time in my life it would have helped having one. Bit bloody late to buy one, this being the last afternoon of my life." Timothy Spall's pudgy face looms into the lens. He's recording the extraordinary events of his final days and, 13 seconds into the BBC's new drama *Shooting the Past*, you're hooked.

As Spall nibbles on a slice of toast and girds his storytelling loins, he whets our appetite still further, explaining that his story is of vital importance because it can happen to anyone: "Anyone who has suddenly lost their job or house or even business, or just had someone promoted above them. Anyone who knows how that feels, this is for you."

This vivid opening sequence is not only arresting, it's a startlingly clear statement of intent by the writer and director Stephen Poliakoff. He not only tightens the narrative screw with the threat of Spall's impending death, he alerts you to the drama's themes: the quirkiness of individuals, the collision between past and future, the responsibilities of individuals and, above all, the recording of history. *Shooting the Past* is a race against time, set in an anachronistic library housing a priceless collection of millions of historic photographs, overseen by a skeleton staff headed by the coolly authoritative Lindsay Duncan and the eccentric cardigan-wearing Spall. When an American businessman (Liam Cunningham) arrives, announcing that he has bought them up and that the collection must be sold, opposing worlds collide.

"I would love it if people said it was old-fashioned," beams Poliakoff, enveloped in a comfy wing-backed chair in his Islington London home. His brief was to write something that people wouldn't easily forget – "Quite difficult," he says, grinning over his understatement – but it led him back to his lifelong fascination with the power of photographs.

Although the piece is, in his own words, "dialogue-heavy – there's no reason why TV can't do dialogue", pictures are at its heart. There are two pivotal sequences vaguely reminiscent of the classic scene in Antonioni's Sixties film *Blow-Up*, where we watch David Hemmings discover a murderer in a series of pictures he has taken by accident. Here, we and the characters gaze at a succession of photographs brought together by Duncan to show to Cunningham. The first tells the true story of a Jewish girl in pre-War Germany but, although her tale is extremely moving, Poliakoff isn't just out to evoke pathos. It's a crunch moment in the plot and, even as we respond to the pic-



Stephen Poliakoff: 'I've deliberately tried to slow television down, but to make it compelling'

John Voss

tures, we're aware that Duncan is manipulating the story for her own ends. It's a gratifyingly complex scene.

Writers are usually reticent or downright evasive about their objectives but Poliakoff is unusually forthcoming. His early stage work has been described as cinematic. In 1988, however, he wrote: "Cinema is generally the wrong medium to try to reveal complex character changes or to attempt to operate dramatically on two or three levels at once. Both are clearly central aspirations in most of my plays." Ten years later, that statement is supported by these two telling sequences. Ultimately, *Shooting the Past* is an exploration of charac-

ter and circumstance in a medium poised between film and theatre. "I was determined to write something with long, sustained scenes, the sort of thing one can only do on television... you can in theatre but in a different way. I wanted to do something that wasn't trying to be cinema yet would use the power of great acting in close-up. I've deliberately tried to slow television down, but to make it compelling."

To that extent, it genuinely is old-fashioned. "Radically, I hope," asserts Poliakoff. That's a hardly surprising word for someone whose work has been political with small "p" since his first play back in 1971 when he was just 19. He's always regard-

ed his writing as political but not as in agitprop or even as part of the Seventies wave of writers who believed Britain was teetering on the brink of revolutionary change.

"I've tried not to write within conventions or genres and to be provocative about showing the nature of whatever world in a different way," he says. "That, I think, is a political act."

His early plays, like *Hitting Town* or *City Sugar*, dwelt in an urban world of neon and concrete populated by disaffected youth. He gradually moved further afield, winning a huge audience for *Caught on a Train*, a gripping, one-off BBC drama about a man who travels to Vienna accidentally, ac-

companied by an elderly, terrifyingly austere Viennese woman memorably played by Peggy Ashcroft. Then, in 1984, he wrote *Breaking the Silence*, based on his grandfather, an inventor who dressed as if for the opera and travelled on his own train. All this in Leninist Russia.

His most famous work, however, is his 1991 film, which has been something of a calling card ever since. *Close My Eyes* was about an incestuous relationship between brother and sister Clive Owen and Saskia Reeves during the last gasp of Eighties greed. It was set in Docklands and the bewitchingly beautiful Home Counties. That sense of place, the physical and political

context, is his hallmark. If Pinter hadn't already used the title, he could have called any number of his works *Landscape*.

Place and safety within any given society are obviously key Jewish concerns, so does the literal and metaphorical importance of location stem from Poliakoff being Jewish?

"That's never been put to me," he says. "Surprised. 'I think it may be.' Yet his London upbringing was only Jewish. He'd been sent to an extremely Anglican Surrey prep school where he was the only Jew. 'On Sundays we all had to turn to face the altar and say the Creed and everyone would look at me because I didn't know what to say. It was a powerful reminder of being separate. I always felt slightly apart.' Discomfiting, but no bad thing for a writer, and it had a powerful effect. 'I was there for five years and was pretty unhappy. It gave me a terror of authority.'

That, too, continually resurfaces in his writing, the tension between being connected to and separate from institutions, structures and authorities. "Yes," he muses, "I write about fear quite a lot." All this comes together in *Talk of the City*, his fascinating recent RSC hit, about to transfer to the Young Vic. In the far-off land of 1937 BBC Light Entertainment, a happy-go-lucky crooner and comedy man becomes involved in dangerously subversive ideas about what was happening to Jews in Europe.

Period plays are, of course, as much about the time they are written in as the era in which they're set. "As we're about to burst into a realm of thousands of channels, now seemed the right time to do it." In 1937 the BBC had only one channel, which was even broadcast across America – "Imagine *Casualty* being beamed across the whole of the United States!" he giggles, gleefully – but it was experiencing a similar reign of management terror and control as the current corporation.

"I'm very interested in the power some people have over others. We're living in a very controlling world and all sorts of people no longer know what's going on. In *Shooting the Past*, someone comes in from the outside world, bashes through the door and says, 'You've got to come under this discipline'. That has to be resisted." He concedes that it's difficult to see where that resistance is going to come from. "But then, nothing ever runs in straight lines," he remarks, confidently. "Something is going to happen."

*Shooting the Past* starts on Sunday on BBC 2; *Talk of the City* is at the Young Vic from 3 Feb (0171-928 6363); the scripts are published by Methuen.

## THE BOOKS INTERVIEW

More fun and fewer nuns – Michèle Roberts on food, sex and God

PAGE 14

## Who says the young aren't Romantic?

WHAT HAVE Jonathan Coffey, Naomi Hazlett, Jonathan Deakin, Kate Andrews, Ben Morrow, Kate Milne and Heidi Sutcliffe in common?

Well, precision, intelligence, talent, commitment for a start. For these are all members of the magnificent National Youth Orchestra, star turn of last year's Proms, which has just got 1999 off to a bumper start with concerts in Symphony Hall, Birmingham and Manchester's Bridgewater Hall, where they played last night.

This was a programme that might have warmed the cockles of Sir Simon Rattle, himself

a percussive former member of the orchestra: Wagner's "Prelude" and "Liebestod" from *Tristan*, Debussy's "La Mer", Strauss' "Death and Transfiguration", and (with close repeated to rapturous waves of applause you could feel heating) Wembly-like, round Symphony Hall, Ravel's "La Valse" – the apotheosis of not just the Viennese Waltz, but of almost everything.

So much impresses about this 150-strong mass of fledgling virtuosi – some of whom may well, in time, form the core of our principal orchestras. First, as conductor Ian Pascal

### CLASSICAL

NATIONAL YOUTH ORCHESTRA/TORTELIER SYMPHONY HALL BIRMINGHAM

Tortelier pointed out, these gifted youngsters have a mere nine days to amass a programme, making phenomenal demands on musical precision. The thoroughness of their preparation, and their practical and instinctive grasp of giant-scale late Romantic scores (they take Mahler in their stride), is breathtaking. Furthermore, they reveal a

dynamic grasp not just of microscopic finer detail but in a macrocosm too, mastering massive structures that could, otherwise handled, be diminished to thin rhetoric.

Lovingly nursed by Tortelier, these cheerful prodigies encompass Wagner's taxing, long-flowing epic lines like fully-fledged professionals; likewise in the Debussy, with its endless surge and ebb, and flow highlighting individual sections – trumpets (marvellously lucid), full brass chorus (top-notch), the gorgeously intoned, soaring solo violin of leader Jonathan Coffey or the seabird cawing

above the foam of flute, piccolo, clarinet – there was much that shone. The opening bars, with their whisper of four beautifully focused harpists, the initial leaf-like rustle of strings, and the first hint of trumpets, was as magical as the finale was deafening; while from the Strauss on second violin and violas – a vast harmonised sea of strings heaving dead together (the later scudding fast passages in first and second violins were equally finely co-ordinated) – you might think we had a budding LSO on our hands.

Just here and there inexplicably showed – a slight languor in the full wind chorus, some string over-reliance, prior to the bewitching close of the Strauss. But any temptation in rehearsal to rush the "La Valse" was triumphantly resisted in performance. From a dense score sprung a wealth of instrumental clarity (low-rocking bassoons, horns, bass clarinet, trumpets 1+2, eight-strong varied percussion) and a joyous nonchalance. Nobody fluffed. And no-one was late at the dance's dazzling demise.

RODERIC DUNNETT

Sometimes, art is an act of survival



LIFE? OR THEATRE?  
THE WORK OF CHARLOTTE SALOMON

Royal Academy of Arts  
Piccadilly, London  
Until 17 January 1999 (closed 24 December)  
Open daily 10am to 6pm and Fridays until 8.30pm  
0171 300 8000 for further information  
© Charlotte Salomon Foundation

## The rhythm and blue flame

### JAZZ

GEORGIE FAME  
QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL  
LONDON

band. His measured delivery squeezes the emotion out of a standard in a way that must make the likes of Bacharach, Donovan and Lennon and McCartney proud. You'd want him to sing your song.

The band did a couple of tunes by themselves before Fame made an authentically showbiz entrance, finger-clicking and air-punching to his first great hit, "Yeh Yeh". Gershwin's "But Not For Me", complete with an ingenious arrangement by the director Steve Gray and a skilful lyricised version of a lovely old Chet Baker trumpet solo, was a masterpiece. Eight tunes in, he sat at the Hammond organ, briefly turning a homage to the Bull's Head Jazz Club into a Jimi Hendrix-style soul jazz shuffle blues.

But Fame spent almost every other moment pacing in front of the orchestra.

The cult composer Lalo Schifrin once remarked that he'd told his wife he wanted the BBC Big Band for his next birthday. From the composer of the themes to *Bullitt* and *Mission: Impossible*, this was some endorsement. But Mrs Schifrin's lack of generosity was Georgie Fame's gain. This long-running orchestra's association with Radio 2 has done nothing to blunt its sharp edges.

There's something about the opening shock blast of a good jazz big band that makes the corners of your mouth curl. Steve Gray looked as if he were trying to suppress a grin all night. The BBC Big Band did it all, from ballads to R&B and a rendition of Fame and Gray's original "City Life" that almost defined swing.

All in all it was a worthy commemoration of a 40-year career, and Georgie Fame proved he still has what people's dads call star quality. A version of this review appeared in later editions of yesterday's paper.

LINTON CHISWICK

## THE INDEPENDENT

### European City Breaks



3 nights in Portugal  
from £279  
per person  
Departures in March and November 1999

FOR FULL DETAILS AND  
A BOOKING FORM  
Complete the coupon in block  
capital letters and send to:  
The Independent  
Lisbon City Break,  
Festive Holidays Limited,  
Pate Court, North Place,  
Cheltenham,  
Gloucestershire GL50 4DY

or call the brochure Hotline  
0990 55 33 55  
This holiday is operated by  
Festive Holidays Ltd,  
ABTA V108X, ATOL 2172.

Please send me further details of the  
Independent Lisbon City Break ref: INT/99/6

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

POST CODE \_\_\_\_\_

TEL \_\_\_\_\_

THE INDEPENDENT LISBON

Festive Holidays Ltd, Pate Court,  
North Place, Cheltenham,  
Gloucestershire GL50 4DY

Please tick this box if you do not  
wish to receive future offers from  
Independent Newspaper Ltd

LINTON CHISWICK

THE WEEK IN REVIEW				BY FIONA STURGES
EXCELLENT	GOOD	OK	POOR	DEADLY
<b>OVERVIEW</b>		<b>CRITICAL VIEW</b>		<b>OUR VIEW</b>
<b>THE FILM LITTLE VOICE</b>				
	<p>This adaptation of Jim Cartwright's stage hit tells the story of an autistic girl whose silence is broken when singing along to Judy Garland records.</p>	<p>"Try as they might, the film-makers can't make <i>Little Voice</i> any less dowdy and cramped than it looked on stage. This is drama still smeared with greasepaint, and chock-full of exits and entrances that scream theatre matinee," remarked Anthony Quinn. "An oddly depressing</p>	<p>experience that seems to respect neither its characters nor its audience," grumbled <i>The Guardian</i>, while <i>The Big Issue</i> deemed it "essentially a showcase for the karaoke skills of Jane Horrocks". "A banal showbiz parable redeemed by fine performances," decreed the <i>Daily Mail</i>.</p>	<p>Even with Horrocks's startling vocal capacity and good performances from the cast, <i>Little Voice</i> brims with clichés and proves better suited to the stage.</p>
<b>THE PLAY SONG AT TWILIGHT</b>				
	<p>The theatre critic Sheridan Morley revives Noel Coward's 1956 play about a writer forced to confront his homosexuality when a young actress produces an incriminating letter.</p>	<p>"The ironies surrounding this current production are rather more interesting than the production itself, which lacks confidence and definition," reflected Paul Taylor. "Decidedly creaky," carpéd <i>The Daily Telegraph</i>, adding, "the dialogue... clearly meant to fizz like the pink champagne served in the play - has the stale quality of</p>	<p>the stuff you find at the bottom of glasses on the morning after..." <i>The Stage</i> said: "Morley fails to bring life to a piece which remains resolutely static from beginning to end." <i>The Daily Mail</i> noted: "The overall delivery is mostly too pleasant... One hopes the rest of the Coward year sets the pulse racing a little faster."</p>	<p>Hindered by lackadaisical performances from Corin Redgrave and Kiki Markham, Morley fails to infuse the play with suitable verve. An awkward start to Coward's centenary celebrations.</p>
<b>THE ALBUM JAY-Z</b>				
	<p>Following up his 1996 album <i>In My Life</i> and riding on the success of the chart-topping single "Hard Knock Life", the East Coast rapper Jay-Z returns with a third album.</p>	<p>"The overwhelming impression left by raps like 'Ride or Die' is depressingly downbeat, a desultory rehearsing of the only narrative available to black American youth today," opined Andy Gill. "Another rap album by a multi-platinum yank who means sod all over here... Who would've thought that the promised land was just a black BMW and a</p>	<p>mobile phone?" remonstrated <i>Time Out</i>. "Anyone expecting drowsy rap dropped over samples from Broadway musicals will be in for a rude shock. Here is a darker, more aggressive side to Jay-Z," countered <i>The Big Issue</i>, while <i>The Sunday Mirror</i> quipped: "The album has more of the clever hip hop that makes us crazy for Jay-Z."</p>	<p>Yet another slice of hip-hop cliché. With song titles like "Money, Cash, Hoes" and "Ride or Die" Jay-Z has failed to rise above the muscogist, gangsta-obsessed sentiments of American rap.</p>
<b>THE CIRCUS SHOW</b>	<b>CIRQUE DU SOLEIL</b>			
	<p>Following its immense success last year, French-Canadian circus troupe Cirque du Soleil bring <i>Alegria</i> to the Albert Hall. Directed by Franco Dragone.</p>	<p>"One disappointment of <i>Alegria</i> is its po-facedness," announced Steven Poole. "Ordinary actions are carried out in a bizarre, debased ballet style, and there is a lot of pointless running about with stiff arms by the large supporting cast." "I've tried to pick holes in Cirque du Soleil's shows in the past, but this time I give up."</p>	<p>confessed the <i>Evening Standard</i>, adding "Resistance is useless: go along, be amazed, enjoy it." "The serenity is one of the most striking features of this marvellous show, the suggestion of effortless achievement arrived at with a grace that smiles the face of gravity," gushed <i>The Daily Telegraph</i>.</p>	<p>The humourless expressionism of the Cirque du Soleil will annoy devotees of old-fashioned circus slapstick, though their spectacular acrobatics cannot fail to impress.</p>
				<p><i>Alegria</i> is running at the Albert Hall until 24 January. For bookings and enquiries, call 0171-589 8212</p>

## EXIT POLL

## THE PLAY

Krapp's Last Tape

ARTS THEATRE

LONDON



WILL REILLY  
24, management consultant, London  
"I thought it was great - as tragic to watch as it was to read. It's deeply upsetting, deeply moving. I felt a little uncomfortable about some of the situations still at the start, but I feel Edward Petherbridge captured Krapp quite well. His relation to the tapes were exactly how I would expect it to be. I found the whole experience quite moving and quite tragic."

## AMANDA CALVERT

50, translator, Moscow

"I have never seen it performed before in a very beautiful play. The words get the gist of life, very beautiful words. And beautifully performed. It's about the important things in life as you get older, such as memory and love. I loved the play straight away."



## CHRIS McCULLY

41, lecturer, Manchester

"It has wonderful structure and it's beautifully crafted. What I find so significant about this production is how Petherbridge judges the weight of silence, which is probably one of the hardest things to achieve on stage. And it was perfect. The silences in the text are really part of the dialogue that Krapp is having with himself and partly his dialogue with the audience - it's very difficult to pull off. I really enjoyed it. This is up there with the very best."



## The higher the platforms, the harder the fall

EDWARD II's steep decline from glittering sybaritic sodomite to the poor, bare, forlorn animal who meets his grisly end in the sewers of the Tower of London has never been charted more graphically than in this exhilarating Cherub Company production, which tackles the Brecht adaptation of Marlowe.

Clad in a gold puffball skirt and precipitous platform heels, Mariano Caligari's monarch begins as the last word in painted *outre* transvestism, dancing crotch to crotch

with Christopher Gunning's Gaveston, a lean, insolently edible bit of rough who emerges here as a prototype of Orton's Mr Sloane. Vainly quavering a liturgical song as buckets of filth are chucked over him from on high, Caligari's king ends as a stark naked, shivering mite who lays himself vulnerable to the erotic nursing of his murderer.

Brecht's adaptation is a systematic denial that there was any seamless tragic inevitability to this 19-year process. History is created by spe-

## THEATRE

THE LIFE OF EDWARD II  
OF ENGLAND  
RIVERSIDE STUDIOS  
LONDON

cific, often petty and unrecorded choices, as he illustrates in the play where it is claimed that the Trojan war, fought over a whore, erupted in an alehouse on the waterfront where a Greek bloodied a man's nose and pretended he was doing it for Helen.

Because of that, Hector died in the blood of his genitals and the world was consoled with the *Iliad*.

This clinical and ironic angle on history as a manufactured business, full of botched shots and missed alternatives, is mordantly communicated here. The production presents the play as a sort of Expressionist fairground attraction, replete with whirly platform stage, sardonically incongruous dance, band tunes, and a chorus of frock-created bourgeois barons who could

have stepped from the canvases of Dix or Grosz and are supplemented by puppets of themselves. Performed with hard-edged flair and fluency, it is a show that collapses the division between backstage and on stage. Instead of Brechtian captions, cast members race to the front to deliver droll historical time-checks to the implacable beat of a drum.

It's a staging that succeeds in offering colliding perspectives on Edward - a character who achieves belated humanity even as his per-

sistent refusal to abdicate (a switch from the Marlowe plunges England into a prolonged political crisis and the threat of foreign invasion. On the equivocations of power: the production is, throughout, very witty. For example, the mifre of the Bishop of Winchester is bifurcated and folds over itself like a rabbit's ears cocked to pick up sounds from opposite directions. This bet-hedging head-gear is fitting for a cleric who claims that the Church is always on the side of God and that God is al-

ways, well, on the side of the winner. I last saw this play in an extraordinary bilingual event in Paris where English and French actors performed, in turn, a drastically edited version, like some highbrow *Jeux Sans Frontières*. It is good now to experience a fuller account in a show which makes a case that this financially threatened company deserves funding to secure its survival.

PAUL TAYLOR

To 17 Jan. Booking: 0181-741 2255

## Poetry's not dead yet. But is it alive?

NEW YORK  
DIARY

ALISSA QUART

ON NEW Year's Day, the poet Robbie McCauley asked an audience of hundreds in an East Village church to shout out the names of white people. Taylor Mead, the former Andy Warhol superstar, shouted back: "Barry White!" This was no Baptist revival meeting gone awry but the 25th anniversary of the all-day reading at St Mark's Poetry Project. An audience of 800, the largest since the Seventies, jammed into the church to catch 10 hours of poets - and a generous helping of celebrities cum poet wannabes such as Patti Smith, Eric Bogosian and Jim Carroll. It was like a roots consciousness group for New York's most brooding celebs.

There were the annual poetry fest staples - down with sexual McCarthyism, up with the Whitmanesque yawp. There were the Steinians, the Untouchables, the poetry graduates reading prettily bland stanzas. One young experimentalist was complimented by two florid prophet ravers named Magnolia and Gingee. Another gazed wistfully at what she called "impressive packages" of the male rock'n'roll poets.

The best thing about this event is that it shows that New York poetry, with its 350 monthly readings, isn't dead - though that's not to say it's totally alive, either.

paintings were on sale for \$15,000. Amid the younger men in Pradaish attire was an older man in a houndstooth jacket, one of Loeb's collectors. He told me that today's art market was "a collector's paradise". "There's so much going on in Damiani's pictures," the collector said proudly, referring perhaps to the painting of bubble-headed LA teenagers in a car, with men in fatigues gunning people down behind them.

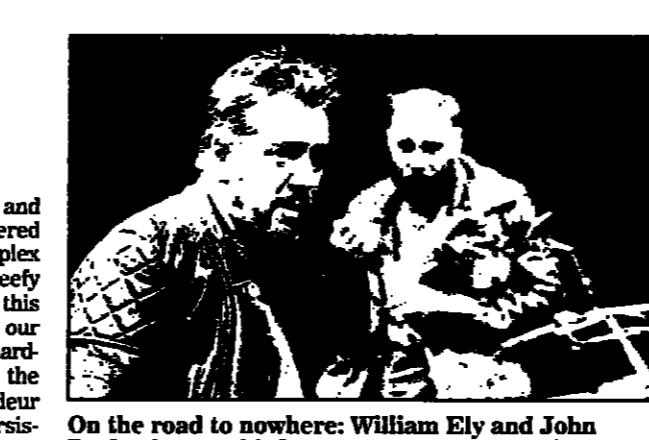
Loeb and the other new New York painters have been touted as a fresh breed, a firm departure from the decadent Eighties painters, modest, even idiosyncratic, with Loeb's work some of the flashiest of the lot. No monumental canvases or monumental prices.

"Painting certainly is alive. I don't foresee it dying any time soon," says David Frankel, a critic for *Artforum*. He adds that the public pronouncement of painting's new life is "commercial as well as intellectual. For a moment it became important to say that painting was dead. That became a problem for people trying to sell art".

One of the best things about poetry is no one says it's alive to fatten their pocket books. Forty years ago, the poet and critic Frank O'Hara wrote a list that could describe the rush to birth and death certificates in art: "Naming things is only the intention to make things."

## Cornwall or bust

## THEATRE

FREEBIRD  
NEW VIC STUDIO  
BRISTOL OLD VIC

On the road to nowhere: William Ely and John Berlyn in 'Freebird'

Oliver Pratt

Ivy and director Ian Hastings have overcome one obvious handicap in the development of the road play, namely the fact that a stage is a stationary environment. The economical set is dominated by three motorbikes facing the audience, and the use of iconic back projection, sound and lighting succeeds in creating a sense of motion.

Nevertheless, Dorset writer Jon Ivy has made a valiant stab at the genre with his new play *Freebird*. It centres on a trip by three motorcycle couriers, the epitome of late Nineties urbanism, to darkest Cornwall in search of a remote cannabis farm. What starts out as a relaxed weekend in the country gradually transforms itself into a bad trip, every sense of the term. With its saddlebags packed full of humour and pathos, this is a very British *Easy Rider*.

one who is touching and funny rather than just gratingly monotonous. Together with Fred, played by Ivy himself, they stumble into the countryside weighted down by all the city-dweller's prejudices about this strange rural world.

Unfortunately, the second act fails to live up to the promise of the first, as the characters slip into a mushroom-induced haze and the play slithers to a hallucinogenic ending.

The first act is an entertaining collection of on-the-road snapshots which explore the world of the biker, the small-time criminal and the druggy with dry wit. William Ely's Tyg, who at first glance is an all-mouth and trousers' biker, reveals himself to be a far less secure and more loveable character. John Berlyn's performance manages to lift permanently stoned drug connoisseur Grouch out of the mire of the dopehead cliché. Grouch may be a caricature, but he is a multidimensional

one who is touching and funny rather than just gratingly monotonous.

Together with Fred, played by Ivy himself, they stumble into the countryside weighted down by all the city-dweller's prejudices about this strange rural world.

Unfortunately, the second act fails to live up to the promise of the first, as the characters slip into a mushroom-induced haze and the play slithers to a hallucinogenic ending.

The first act is an entertaining collection of on-the-road snapshots which explore the world of the biker, the small-time criminal and the druggy with dry wit. William Ely's Tyg, who at first glance is an all-mouth and trousers' biker, reveals himself to be a far less secure and more loveable character. John Berlyn's performance manages to lift permanently stoned drug connoisseur Grouch out of the mire of the dopehead cliché. Grouch may be a caricature, but he is a multidimensional

one who is touching and funny rather than just gratingly monotonous.

Together with Fred, played by Ivy himself, they stumble into the countryside weighted down by all the city-dweller's prejudices about this strange rural world.

Unfortunately, the second act fails to live up to the promise of the first, as the characters slip into a mushroom-induced haze and the play slithers to a hallucinogenic ending.

The first act is an entertaining collection of on-the-road snapshots which explore the world of the biker, the small-time criminal and the druggy with dry wit. William Ely's Tyg, who at first glance is an all-mouth and trousers' biker, reveals himself to be a far less secure and more loveable character. John Berlyn's performance manages to lift permanently stoned drug connoisseur Grouch out of the mire of the dopehead cliché. Grouch may be a caricature, but he is a multidimensional

one who is touching and funny rather than just gratingly monotonous.

Together with Fred, played by Ivy himself, they stumble into the countryside weighted down by all the city-dweller's prejudices about this strange rural world.

Unfortunately, the second act fails to live up to the promise of the first, as the characters slip into a mushroom-induced haze and the play slithers to a hallucinogenic ending.

The first act is an entertaining collection of on-the-road snapshots which explore the world of the biker, the small-time criminal and the druggy with dry wit. William Ely's Tyg, who at first glance is an all-mouth and trousers' biker, reveals himself to be a far less secure and more loveable character. John Berlyn's performance manages to lift permanently stoned drug connoisseur Grouch out of the mire of the dopehead cliché. Grouch may be a caricature, but he is a multidimensional

one who is touching and funny rather than just gratingly monotonous.

Together with Fred, played by Ivy himself, they stumble into the countryside weighted down by all the city-dweller's prejudices about this strange rural world.

Unfortunately, the second act fails to live up to the promise of the first, as the characters slip into a mushroom-induced haze and the play slithers to a hallucinogenic ending.

The first act is an entertaining collection of on-the-road snapshots which explore the world of the biker, the small-time criminal and the druggy with dry wit. William Ely's Tyg, who at first glance is an all-mouth and trousers' biker, reveals himself to be a far less secure and more loveable character. John Berlyn's performance manages to lift permanently stoned drug connoisseur Grouch out of the mire of the dopehead cliché. Grouch may be a caricature, but he is a multidimensional

one who is touching and funny rather than just gratingly monotonous.

Together with Fred, played by Ivy himself, they stumble into the countryside weighted down by all the city-dweller's prejudices about this strange rural world.

Unfortunately, the second act fails to live up to the promise of the first, as the characters slip into a mushroom-induced haze and the play slithers to a hallucinogenic ending.

The first act is an entertaining collection of on-the-road snapshots which explore the world of the biker, the small-time criminal and the druggy with dry wit. William Ely's Tyg, who at first glance is an all-mouth and trousers' biker, reveals himself to be a far less secure and more loveable character. John Berlyn's performance manages to lift permanently stoned drug connoisseur Grouch out of the mire of the dopehead cliché. Grouch may be a caricature, but he is a multidimensional

one who is touching and funny rather than just gratingly monotonous.

Together with Fred, played by Ivy himself, they stumble into the countryside weighted down by all the city-dweller's prejudices about this strange rural world.

Unfortunately, the second act fails to live up to the promise of the first, as the characters slip into a mushroom-induced haze and the play slithers to a hallucinogenic ending.

The first act is an entertaining collection of on-the-road snapshots which explore the world of the biker, the small-time criminal and the druggy with dry wit. William Ely's Tyg, who at first glance is an all-mouth and trousers' biker, reveals himself to be a far less secure and more loveable character. John Berlyn's performance manages to lift permanently stoned drug connoisseur Grouch out of the mire of the dopehead cliché. Grouch may be a caricature, but he is a multidimensional

one who is touching and funny rather than just gratingly monotonous.

## THE BOOKS INTERVIEW

## How to lose the abbey habit

In fiction, as in life, Michèle Roberts wants more fun – and fewer nuns. By Christina Patterson

The first surprise is that Michèle Roberts has swapped her house in Holloway, full of colourful clutter and a sense of benign decay, for a compact City pied-à-terre in a gleaming modern block a stone's throw from the Bank of England. Even the lilies in the vase match the white walls and cream furniture. We drink white wine, too, but Roberts is quick to point out the red wine stains on the carpet from a recent party. Hedonism has not yet been expunged from the life of this writer whose main concerns, expressed in the title of her collected essays, are "Food, Sex and God".

Food is still a central pleasure and a theme of almost pornographic sensuality in her work; but she's slimmer than when I last saw her. These days, she keeps an eye on her weight and swims every day. Michèle Roberts is nearly 50, and she is glowing. Suspicious of new technology, she has finally swapped her Olivetti, with its bouncy keys "like little finger-tip trampolines" for a word-processor ("I always want to call it a food-processor") and found that her almost superstitious fear of losing the writing ritual evaporated. "It was like a new seduction," she laughs, "a better machine, a better lover, better technique..."

The move to minimalism has more than a little to do with the fact that her stepsons are now old enough to flee the nest. If Roberts has chucked out her chintz and most of her books and furniture, it is only as far as her house in Normandy, where she spends "about 60 per cent" of her time and does most of her writing. It is, however, difficult to resist a feeling that there has been some serious streamlining and radical change, particularly in the light of the biggest surprise of all. Her new novel, *Fair Exchange* (Little, Brown, £15.99, set at the time of the French Revolution), is a rollicking good read with not a nun in sight.

Michèle Roberts without Catholicism would, one imagines, be a little like Woody Allen without neurosis. Since her first novel, *A Piece of the Night*, in 1978, she has explored the world of catechisms and convents, visions and Virgins, sex and sin, with lush detail and passionate intensity. Her female characters exhibit a lust for life that they find impossible to square with their Catholic roots, a tension that has led to wild flights of surrealism. This culminated in her previous novel, *Impossible Saints*, a subversively playful collection of fables, bursting with madomas and whores, dismemberment and incest.

*Fair Exchange* seems an infinitely calmer affair. Split, like Roberts, between London and Normandy, it tells the tale of two young women, one French, the other a pupil of Mary Wollstonecraft, who discover love, motherhood and independence against a background of revolution. Both grapple with the scandal of extra-marital pregnancy, a dawning feminist consciousness and, as in all good page-turners, a secret. There's still a sense of play, with shades of *Jane Eyre* and *Angela Carter*, but it all feels very much less self-consciously clever than her recent work. Calvino and Kristeva seem to have receded and the Marquis de Sade replaced, dare I say it, by George Heyer. Is this fair?

"Yes, I think in a playful way I wanted to come out and say I've read a lot of her stuff and I really have loved it... I think it's going to appeal to people who like stories, who aren't frightened by romance as a form



Phil Meech

## MICHELE ROBERTS, A BIOGRAPHY

Michèle Roberts was born in 1949 to a French mother and an English father and brought up in Edgware. After a convent-school education, she read English at Oxford, where she became a founder member of the first women's street-theatre group. During the Seventies, she was a pregnancy counsellor, a librarian, a hippie, a

lesbian, a feminist activist and the poetry editor of *Spore Rib*. Her first novel, *A Piece of the Night*, was published to great acclaim in 1978, followed by *The Visitation* (1983) and *The Wild Girl* (1984), a controversial fictionalized account of the life of Mary Magdalene. She has published five other novels including *Flesh and Blood* (1994), which

provoked comparisons with Woolf, Colette and Joyce, and *Daughters of the House* (1992), shortlisted for the Booker and winner of the WH Smith Literary Award. Her other publications include a collection of short stories, a book of essays (*Food, Sex and God*) and three collections of poetry. She is married to the artist Jim Latier.

and who don't expect everything to be very clever and lofty." Certainly, there's a new lightness of touch, a sense of maternal presence to replace the familiar theme of maternal absence – and a conspicuous lack of Catholic guilt. "I felt that having written eight novels which scoured my soul and my unconscious, it would be fun to write something a little more light-hearted. I killed off some old demons in *Impossible Saints* and solved something about Catholicism and why I'd found it so damaging".

There is, she points out, an ex-convent: a joke for her husband, Jim, who announced firmly after the last book, "Mimi, I think you've done enough nuns". Roberts has not, however, thrown out the baby with the bath-water. She now believes that "God is immanent... like a shorthand for the connection between people and things and the world".

It's something of a relief to hear that she's "not into Goddess", since the brand of feminism that surfaced in her early work is sometimes associated with the crude Jungian archetypes appropriated by New Age types in tie-dye pantaloons. She is still

intrigued and inspired by Jung, but thinks that he was "probably a randy old bugger who fucked all the women and then told them off for having an animus problem". Dreams, usually a central part of her writing experience, featured less this time, and even the genesis of the novel was different.

In the past, her novels have started as a haunting image, but this one was the idea of her French publisher. "We were having lunch in Paris one day and he said 'Hey, I've got a novel for you to write'." Roberts immediately knew that this period, of incipient feminism and political radicalism, was her opportunity to "grapple with what we went through in the Seventies" – a novel she had wanted to write for five years.

It all sounds considerably less angst-ridden than her previous work. "I think I'm in a happier, more contented state of being". Domestic happiness (she and Jim have been together for 11 years), Catholic catharsis and literary acclaim seem to have created a calmer climate in which she is free to explore the power of storytelling. She was, when she was small, the family storyteller, but it was an impulse she

learnt to suppress as she adapted to "someone else's story, a story told by the Catholic Church". "Now I feel I can sit on top of the story," she announces. "It's like sitting on your mountain and thinking I can walk around this mountain any way I want".

If Roberts has learnt to demystify fiction, writing poetry remains for her "almost like a religious experience". She has talked before of the utterance of poetic language as a feminine pleasure recalling the baby's blissful babble at the maternal breast". How far does this relate to her own poetry? "I do feel that there's something quite basic going on," she agrees, "which is a need to speak from the unconscious". She has published three collections of poetry, but confesses that she is "in a real crisis" about it. Her poems are, like her fiction, passionate, exuberant and sensual, but they are not "what the people in power like... My poetry is not establishment poetry".

Perhaps not, but her status leans more towards the establishment than away from it these days. She has been shortlisted for the Booker, won the WH Smith award, does regular tours for the British Council and

is an occasional presenter for Radio 3. In the chic flat overlooking the Thames, the years of sleeping in coats in cold squats and living on peanut butter and carrots seem far away. Her anger has dissipated a little, her frustration softened by "ordinary happiness", but her passion remains as strong as ever. "I feel I wasted a lot of my precious youth and my thirties sorrowing and suffering," she laments. "I love meeting new people, I love conversations. I love food, I love sex and I love wine... I've always been greedy for life, but I think I was so fraught about it I wasn't always enjoying it".

Duality is a constant theme in the work of this writer, who is half-French, half-English, and a twin to boot. It is a theme that she seems to be acting out in a polarised double life. In London, she sips wine at literary parties and looks after the public side of her life as a writer. In France, she writes like a demon, cooks delicious meals, digs the garden and chats to the neighbours about vegetables, pigs and the weather. "There's a bit of me," says sleek Michèle Roberts on the elegant cream sofa, "that really likes walking about grunting".

**SENSIBLE VOICES** have noted that, in relation to Nick Hornby's sales, his alleged £2m advance for world rights to two books is probably quite a bargain. Neither was his move to Penguin born out of avarice. Gollancz has changed much since he signed up with *Fever Pitch*, but nothing was more significant than the death of Liz Knights, the editor who nurtured his talent. With Gollancz recently acquired by Orion, he would seem to have made the break at the right time. And had Hornby done an Amis, hawking himself around every publisher in town, he could surely have made twice as much.

**NEITHER DOES** greed explain Sue Townsend's move to Penguin. Loyalty does, for the creator of Adrian Mole has rejoined her editor, Louise Moore, who defected from Methuen when the company was acquired by Random House. Townsend was less than happy with the way that her last novel, *Ghost Children*, was published, and her decision to quit Methuen will cost her dear: she will have to repay her advance. Just as the young Mole was highly critical of Thatcher, so 30-year-old Adrian will be equally critical of Blair in *The Cappuccino Years*, due this autumn. Just as well, then, that Townsend has left Random House, its chief executive, Gail Rebuck, is one of Tony's cronies.

**BERTELSMANN**, THE German media combine which now owns Random House, has embarked on an examination of its conduct during the Second World War. In a series of articles, historian Hersh Fischler alleges that, under the Third Reich, the company published more than a dozen books expressing pro-Nazi and anti-Semitic sentiments. Though Bertelsmann was shut by the Nazis in 1943, Fischler contends this move had more to do with black-market sales than any political dissent. Thomas Middelhoff, the firm's new chief executive, has appointed a panel to investigate allegations. He has promised that "no matter what we find, we will tell the public".

**CRIME FICTION'S** two leading ladies, P D James and Ruth Rendell, have joined forces with W H Smith to raise money for Shelter. Until the end of the month, the retailer will donate £1 every time a customer buys two books by one or both authors. On 28 January, Lady James and Lady Rendell perform a literary double act for a Shelter benefit at the London Planetarium. Tickets, price £10, are available from London branches of WHS.

THE LITERATOR

## Recipes for repression in the well-ordered household

Liz Jensen wishes that this buttoned-up, neatly-ironed queen of the quiet domestic trauma would learn to let her hair down once in a while



The Love of a Good Woman  
by Alice Munro  
Chatto & Windus, £14.99, 340pp

WHEN IT comes to evoking a subtle mood, a complex thought, or an emotional pulse-beat, Alice Munro is in a class of her own, and in this collection of closely-observed slices of domestic truth, her touch never falters. But it never alters, either. This is both a marvel and a disappointment. It is as though Munro has precision-ironed a set of very similar shirts. Admirable though this is, one can't help wishing she'd left something crumpled.

In many of the stories, Munro presents time-lapse snapshots of

women in relationships, families and proxy families, their decay charted across decades. Her clinical observation of this bio-degradation is both wise and acute. But the sharpness of the stories – and the characters who inhabit them – is blunted by a creeping sameness. Thoughts of culpability and powerlessness evaporate and condense again in the minds of her protagonists, mostly women on the margins of action, like the young wife who takes a part-time job looking after an incapacitated old man and learns of

his possible involvement in the dark past of a distant island. But the story deliberately suffocates the details of the ancient atrocity, and the truth ends up smoothed over by female collusion. The Law of Literary Understatement, which Munro is rightly revered for adhering to, decrees that less is always more. Here, though, it feels like less.

The almost novella-length title story begins in a museum in the Canadian town of Walley. Alongside butter churns and horse-harnesses lies a box of instruments dredged

from the watery grave of Mr Willems, an optician whose car plunged into the Peregrine River in 1951. The box contains an ophthalmoscope – a relic which becomes a metaphor for the multi-layered narrative of how the optician met his fate. Munro reveals the story of his mysterious death first through the eyes of three boys who see his hand apparently waving from his sinking car, and then from the point of view of Enid, who nurses the dying, bitter wife of the man who may have killed him. You fear that Enid will fail to confront the pos-

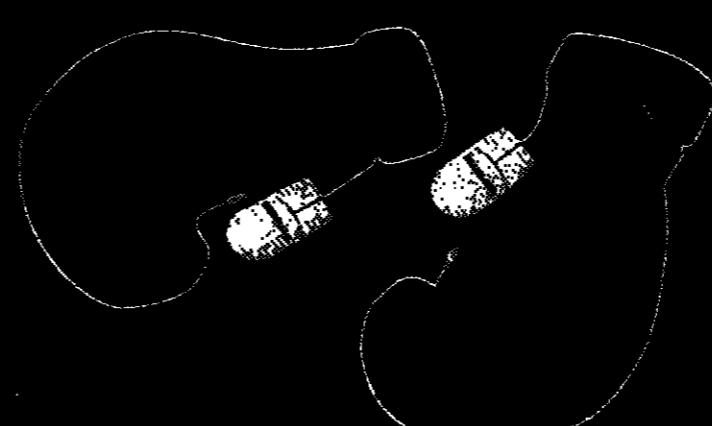
sible murderer, and love him instead. But the idea is amorphous, and one is left gasping for something solid. And thinking petulantly, after 70 odd pages, is that it?

In "Before the Change", Munro comes the closest to finally having herself a ball. When a young woman assists her doctor father in performing an abortion, "out of the womb now came plops of wine jelly, and blood, and somewhere in the fetus... a tiny plastic doll as negligible as a fingernail". Here the writing suddenly buzzes with energy and

comes alive, so that when the woman reveals her secret, there is true pathos, humour and surprise.

Like a set of marks traced into the sand of a beach, *The Love of a Good Woman* contains a delicate genre of writing which leaves only a faint, homeopathically thin imprint of itself behind before vanishing. This is both the glory and the failure of this collection. You can see that life is probably like this, but you'd rather it were not. By the end, Munro's understated truths left me hungry, and craving the nourishment of lies.

with huge savings on books  
all year round at amazon.co.uk  
you won't have to fight  
for the bargains this january



The greatest range of savings.  
Everyday discounts on thousands of popular books  
up to 40% off.

The easiest way to find and buy books.  
Find the book you want in seconds by author title or subject. Then click with just one click on the mouse.

The widest possible selection.  
With over 10 million books in stock, you'll find hundreds of thousands of the best selling titles.

Experience all this and more on the Internet  
at amazon.co.uk

click with  
amazon.co.uk  
books for everyone

Unlimited...  
with ever...  
Buy Annual Trav...  
and enjoy unlimi...  
Seafarers Ferri...  
Our complemen...  
Annual m...  
Worldwide n...  
number of...  
Year round m...  
miles from...  
21 days on...  
24 hour Me...  
Call now for...  
Your fre...  
Saf...  
ONE CALL A...  
0800



# Biting back at the Woolf pack

Virginia and her pals still bewitch writers of fact and fiction. Ray Monk points out the pitfalls of Bloomsbury biography

**G**ranite and Rainbow is such a perfect title for a life of Virginia Woolf that it is a wonder it has not been used by one of the previous dozen or so biographies. The phrase comes from her essay, "The New Biography", in which she expressed her scepticism about the whole genre. Quoting Sir Sidney Lee's remark that "the aim of biography is the truthful transmission of personality", she wrote: "No such single sentence could more neatly split up into two parts the whole problem of biography as it presents itself to us today. On the one hand there is truth; on the other there is personality. And if we think of truth as something of granite-like solidity and of personality as something of rainbow-like intangibility and reflect that the aim of biography is to weld these two into one seamlessness whole, we shall admit that the problem is a stiff one and that we need not wonder if biographers have for the most part failed to solve it."

In "The Art of Biography", Virginia Woolf criticised Lytton Strachey's *Elizabeth and Essex* for attempting to solve this problem by combining fact and fiction. Lacking documentary evidence for the "tragic history" he claimed to see lying, half-revealed and half-concealed in the available facts about Elizabeth I and the Earl of Essex, Strachey simply invented what he could not prove. This, Woolf insists, will not do, for fact and fiction, the granite and the rainbow, "destroy each other". Strachey's book is a failure but "it was not Lytton Strachey who failed; it was the art of biography".

Biography, constrained by the granite-like world of observable fact, is not an art but a craft. To convey successfully the rainbow-like world of personality, the intangible nature of thoughts and feelings, one has to enjoy the artistic freedom of the novelist. That is why paradoxically, "fiction is likely to contain more truth than fact".

Very few novelists or biographers have thought about, or felt, the problem of biography more deeply than Virginia Woolf. The question "how does one understand and convey the inner life of another human being?" dominates her criticism, her novels and, arguably, her life. To understand her thinking about biography is, to a surprisingly large extent, to understand her.

Hermione Lee saw this very clearly, which is why her recent biography of Woolf begins with a chapter discussing Woolf's views on the genre. Disappointingly, Mitchell Leaska's book, despite its wonderfully apt title, does scant justice to the intensity and subtlety with which Woolf thought about the problem of biography. His book begins with a confused introduction, in which he woefully misuses



Virginia Woolf and her father, Sir Leslie Stephen, in 1902

Hulton Getty



Granite and Rainbow: the life of Virginia Woolf  
by Mitchell Leaska  
Fourth Estate, £20, 513pp



The Hours  
by Michael Cunningham  
Picador, £12.99, 230pp

truths, this cannot be because it includes facts about Julia Stephen. The biographer's obligation is to the facts; the novelist's to the integrity of creation. These two are not related as appearance to reality. It undermines, for instance, his many otherwise enlightening parallels between the events in Woolf's life and the incidents described in her novels.

To describe the ways in which Woolf drew on her memories of her mother, Julia, in creating Mrs Ramsay in *To the Lighthouse* is to perform a useful service to scholarship; but to claim, as Leaska does, that in doing so he is revealing the granite behind the rainbow, the "real thing behind appearances", is to miss the point.

*To the Lighthouse* is a novel, an artistic creation. If it expresses important

truths, this cannot be because it includes facts about Julia Stephen. The biographer's obligation is to the facts; the novelist's to the integrity of creation. These two are not related as appearance to reality. It undermines, for instance, his many otherwise enlightening parallels between the events in Woolf's life and the incidents described in her novels.

Leaska's crude confusions make his book easy prey to the fashionable, facile dismissal of biography. When people insist that the facts of a writer's life cannot explain the work, they are right. Where they are wrong is in thinking that the task of the literary biographer is to explain a writer's work. It is not; it is, rather, to understand the writer. When a biographer makes the same mistake, he is in trouble.

Leaska's misunderstandings of Virginia Woolf's thinking and his reduction-

ist view of biography impose severe limitations on his ability to understand Woolf herself. To that extent, his book suffers by comparison with the biographies of Quentin Bell and Hermione Lee, both of whom showed a far subtler grasp of Virginia Woolf's intricate and fascinating personality. However, this is not to say that Leaska's book is entirely without merit.

It is the product of immense scholarship, which Leaska builds into his narrative with an impressively light touch, frequently drawing the reader's attention not only to the finished texts of Woolf's novels, but also to early drafts and alterations. Moreover, when he is not discussing metaphysics, Leaska writes extremely well, and the book is, for all its limitations, an absorbing page-turner – particularly in its treatment of

Grammar-school Hooligan  
A riot of Stanley knives, Doc Martens, Ben Shermans and two-tone sounds down at Scunthorpe United during the Winter of Discontent (or was it the Falklands War?) Emetic boot-on-bone action joins acne-age angst and political allegory in this bleak tale of teen mayhem by a very nice boy who was doing his A-levels and Oxbridge entry at the time, actually.

Countdown to Catastrophe  
Y2K CIA! TWA! RIP! Jumbos fall from the sky! Mainframes shut down! Checkouts refuse your switchcard! Can our grey but still virile retired agent thwart the info-terrorists and stop Millennium meltdown? And can a sozzled old hack who has run right through his redundo cheque get Harrison Ford on board and carry on making those alimony payments?

Michael Arditti meets  
*Mrs Dalloway* in a novel of parallel lives

ACCORDING TO the writer Gilbert Adair, "The Postmodernist Always Rings Twice". In my experience, this is a serious under-estimate. The postmodernist rings again and again – refusing to give up, even when the hapless reader is cowering behind an armchair. And here, with his hand pressed firmly to the bell is Michael Cunningham, delivering a copy of *The Hours*: yet another in the long line of novels about novelists; fictions infused with other fictions; art which imitates art.

Cunningham appropriates the original title – and much else besides – of Virginia Woolf's *Mrs Dalloway*, as he interweaves an account of Woolf's work on the novel with tales of its afterlife in 1940s Los Angeles and 1990s New York. The first strand, in which he sticks closely to the versions of Woolf's writing and publishing familiar from the writer's own *Diary* and Richard Kennedy's *A Boy At The Hogarth Press*, is the most achieved. He convincingly captures Woolf's fragile sensitivity as she remains confined in Richmond under the benign wardship of Leonard.

The second strand sees *Mrs Dalloway* published and exerting its grip on Laura Brown, a Los Angeles housewife who yearns to escape from domesticity. As she bakes a cake for her war-hero husband and prepares for the birth of their second child, her only escape lies in reading. The third strand centres on a lesbian publisher, Clarissa Vaughan, whose name and temperament have led her erstwhile lover and lifelong friend Richard to christen her *Mrs Dalloway*. Clarissa is throwing a party to celebrate the now dying Richard's award of a major literary prize.

Cunningham's last novel, *Flesh and Blood*, was a sprawling family saga: *The Hours* is a tight-knit concert. The writing is elegant, at times exquisite, offering striking images such as a man patting his pregnant wife's stomach "carefully but with a certain force, as if it were the shell of a soft-boiled egg". But the conscious emulation of Woolf's style reduces the expression of a unique sensibility to the level of accomplished pastiche.

The problem is that *The Hours* is a book about links rather than life. Woolf fans will have a field-day noting the correspondences between Clarissa Vaughan's world and Clarissa Dalloway's: both women spend their day planning parties; both are startled by the return of old friends; both have daughters in thrall to older women; both are affected by men who commit suicide. Yet, ultimately, this amounts to very little: it is the cleverness of crossword puzzles rather than the complexity of art.

Cunningham clearly intends his elaborate artifice to address the serious theme of the changing role of women – it is a far cry from Virginia's thwarted trip to London and guiltily incestuous kiss on Vanessa's lips to Clarissa's independent life with her partner, Sally. But this is constantly undermined by a structure which is saying that women's sensibilities are all the same. Moreover, the connections are largely arbitrary. Laura might just as well be reading Daniel Deronda as *Mrs Dalloway*, while Clarissa Vaughan appears to inhabit a universe in which nickname is fate.

As a result of a friend's quip 30 years previously, she finds herself the contemporary embodiment of a Woolf heroine. It is fortunate that Richard did not opt for another literary namesake, Clarissa Harlowe; given the novel's logic, she would have ended up drugged, raped and shamed.

## When Nick met Bridget on the beach...

FUELLED BY the glad tidings of Nick Hornby's two-million thriller deal, wannabe novelists will this week be sitting down all over Britain (or Brighton and Crouch End, at least), eager to make good all those resolutions about committing their inspiration to print. Now, I speak from the receiving end of the 4,000-odd new works of fiction issued in Britain every year, and my best advice remains, as ever: *Don't do it*.

If you must, then try at least to shun the showbiz formulae that currently litter the trend-seeking brains of agents and publishers like so many yellowing cracker motes. In newspapers, faddish ideas turn into fish-wrap within the week (thank heavens). In books, they can hang around for years. So this is the kind of thing I especially want to avoid during 1999 (and, alas, far beyond):

**This Life Goes On (and on...)**  
A hip, not yet curiously cool tale of neurotic middle-class house-shares coming to terms with their sexual confusions, Law Society exams and that mouldy package in the back of the fridge. Thrill to the flat, featureless dialogue of a book stuffed with randy but deadly dull trainee conveyancers just like its readers (and its author), who'd all rather be watching TV anyway. *That's life!*

**The Fulham Bread Way**  
In which the dinky Junior Fashion-Shoot Assistant at *Frocks!* magazine somehow resides in Mandelsonian splendour in SW6. There she wavers between the charms of a coke-addled Soho film producer and a Hooray who owns a Wiltshire rectory stocked with damp labradors. Posh brand names, frilly underwear, designer drugs and

**A WEEK IN BOOKS**  
**BOYD TONKIN**  
A few dead horses you may see flogged in bookshops soon

that old Biological Clock, ticking all the way from *Titanic* to the Met Bar. **Dad's the Comedian**  
Hornby-gauge Bloke grows up, sires a sprog or two, gets in touch with his feelings and mooches wryly around

the DIY supermarket of a Saturday afternoon in between serious talks with the Sensible Partner. Lots of stuff about old records, old girlfriends and Facing Up to the Challenge of Baby Poo, preferably written by a half-forgotten stand-up with a hefty therapy bill whom some out-of-touch publisher imagines is still famous.

**Growing up Tropical**  
Amid the oleanders, jacarandas, salamanders, etc. of the spoilt paradise of *Tristan da Cunha*, the serpent of adolescent sexuality traps our nubile young heroine in its coils. Nature throbs and oozes in sympathy as she falls for a skilly young rebel and so brings the cruel forces of masculinity, imperial authority (PC Plodvana) crashing down on the doomed young couple. (Author registered with major model agency.)

**Grammar-school Hooligan**  
A riot of Stanley knives, Doc Martens, Ben Shermans and two-tone sounds down at Scunthorpe United during the Winter of Discontent (or was it the Falklands War?) Emetic boot-on-bone action joins acne-age angst and political allegory in this bleak tale of teen mayhem by a very nice boy who was doing his A-levels and Oxbridge entry at the time, actually.

**Countdown to Catastrophe**  
Y2K CIA! TWA! RIP! Jumbos fall from the sky! Mainframes shut down! Checkouts refuse your switchcard! Can our grey but still virile retired agent thwart the info-terrorists and stop Millennium meltdown? And can a sozzled old hack who has run right through his redundo cheque get Harrison Ford on board and carry on making those alimony payments?

## ERRATA

### TRANSFER FEVER

Nick Hornby



*THE BOY DONE GOOD, 'E GAVE IT NOW, BUT IT'S A GAME OF TWO BOOKS*



A killer strikes in Las Vegas...

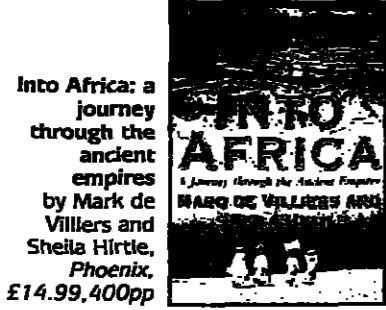
**MOON MUSIC**

...only then do the real games begin  
**FAYE KELLERMAN**

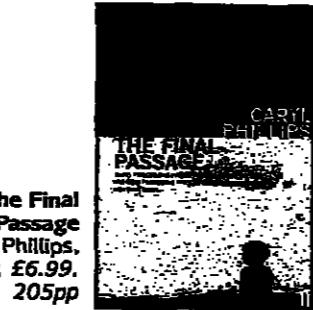
Out now in paperback HEADLINE

## PAPERBACKS

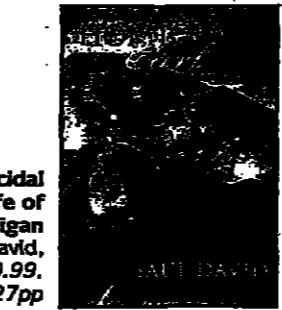
BY EMMA HAGESTADT AND CHRISTOPHER HIRST



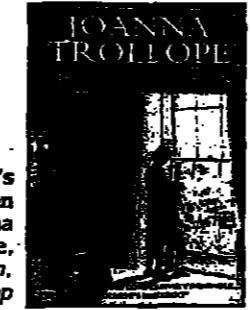
IT SOUNDS a great idea. Veteran hack de Villiers takes a clockwise circuit of the ancient continent from Zanzibar to the Rift Valley, supported by historical background by Hirst. This ambitious project doesn't come off, due to the domination of de Villiers's reporting. Usually this is colourful and interesting, such as being pursued by vigilantes in Mozambique while riding a unicycle with a one-legged tricycle taximan, but, in his determination to extract copy from every encounter, de Villiers often ends up describing nothing in particular. Visiting a crowded bar in an Aideridien area of Zambia, he helpfully notes, "It was impossible to have a conversation. Not that I needed to know much." Still, a colourful primer for anyone planning an African jaunt.



LEAVING THE "life-supporting" blue skies and seas of the Caribbean behind, 19-year-old Leila, her husband Michael and baby son leave for England. But the mean streets and small-eyed inhabitants of their new country do nothing for Leila's already "leaky" new marriage. Michael's drinking gets worse, and Leila is left with only the health visitor for company. Alternating between England and the matriarchal world of St Kitt's, Phillips's acclaimed first novel (originally published in 1985), shows him to be a shrewd observer of frustrated lives. He is an author who lays the blame as much at history's door as on too many hours spent sleeping it off on the steps of the "Day to Dawn" bar.



BETTER THAN Simon Schama, Saul David has re-cast history as addictive narrative. A perfect panto villain, Lord Cardigan is best known for destroying the 11th Hussars. Ironically, the Charge of the Light Brigade temporarily restored the reputation of this frothing martinet whose career was all but sunk by a series of scandals, often unbelievably petty in nature. A national brouhaha ensued when his court-martialled an officer for drinking un-decanted wine at a dinner. David insists Cardigan was no inbred idiot – after leaving the army, he became a respected parliamentarian – but his besetting sin was arrogance compounded by insecurity. This dazzling portrait of an unpalatable figure is not to be missed.



IF YOU'VE yet to be convinced by Joanna Trollope, her latest novel may well convert you. Not a welly-booted Home-Counties girl in sight, as this page-turning read examines the impact of divorce and remarriage on two very different families. Eight-year-old Rufus is taken away from his dad and elegant town-house in Bath to start again in a middle-England terraced housing estate; meanwhile his new stepbrother and sisters leave suburban bliss for life in an isolated, bitterly cold cottage in the Herefordshire countryside. Trollope is wonderful at describing children under pressure, and the best scenes here recount the misery of waking up to an empty fridge and a mother who prefers atmosphere to central heating.

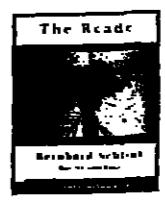


IT IS unlikely that these 12 essays would have shot into the bestsellers were it not for a seven-page fragment on Princess Diana by Anthony O'Hear, whose unarguable views about a moment of national hysteria ("feeling was elevated above reason") were bizarrely condemned by Tony Blair. Other contributions are equally bracing. The Rev Peter Mullen's opinion of contemporary religion ("cosy, patronising and babyish") will have been confirmed by many Christmas sermons. Though acute, Mark Steyn's dissection of American TV news is akin to shooting fish in a barrel, while Ian Robinson is on thin ice, citing the deeply cranky D H Lawrence as a bulwark against sentimentality.

SPOKEN WORD  
CHRISTINA HARDYMENT

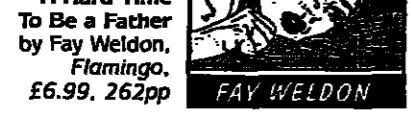
Shakespeare: his life and work performed by Judi Dench and Timothy West, CSA, 2 hrs, £8.99

SERIOUS SHAKESPEARE buffs will have got to grips with everything there is to know about the man of the millennium by now, but I found this combined biography and commentary on the plays so engrossing I listened to it twice. Although little is actually known of the Bard's life, there are plenty of theories about it – and much lively contemporary comment. This is woven in brief outlines of the plays, presented in chronological order, and illustrated by extracts read with great versatility by Judi Dench and Timothy West.



The Reader  
read by Charles Dance  
HarperCollins, 3 hrs, £8.99

THIS MOVING, deeply truthful novel examines the crisis of conscience of Germans about their shared guilt for the Nazi concentration camps through the medium of a love affair which links two postwar generations. Bernhard Schlink writes with a lucid clarity that makes him an excellent audio author – the more so since an intrinsic part of the plot of *The Reader* is that books are read aloud on cassette for the benefit of the imprisoned, illiterate heroine. Charles Dance has exactly the right cool, precise objectivity required to put across this haunting love story.

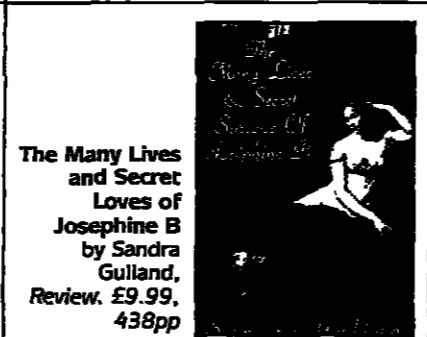


A HARD TIME TO BE A FATHER  
by Fay Weldon, Flamingo, £6.99, 262pp  
FAY WELDON

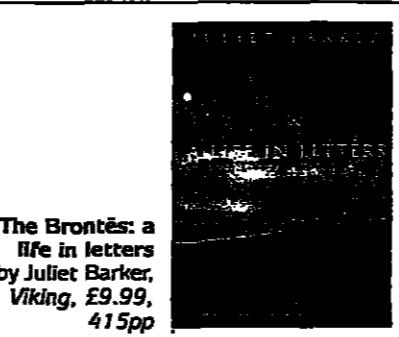
FAY WELDON gets more appealing with age. In her latest collection of short stories, therapists and geneticists are given all the best lines. These clinicians of female destiny seem both to fascinate and annoy Weldon. But whether dealing with procreation or termination, the author's agenda is clear: mothers must die for children to move on; husbands must leave if wives are to prosper; and foetuses must take their chances where they can. She's humorous, too – particularly the stories "My Mother Said" (about the perils of maternal advice) and "Inspector Remorse" (the ethics of adultery). Weldon tackles life's more intractable dilemmas with gusto.



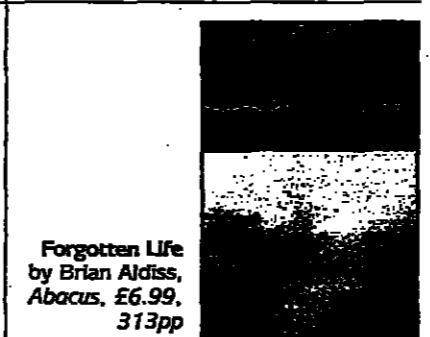
Q: WHO wrote that a royal demise caused "the total suspension of common sense and sincere human feeling for a fortnight"? A: GBS on the death of Queen Victoria. This dyspeptic pocket book is the perfect accompaniment for January hangovers. Of course, the famous verbal assassins are well-represented: "The rage of the sheep is terrible" (Whistler on Wilde); "The Teasy-Weasy of Fleet Street" (Littlejohn on Worsthorne); "A tadpole of the Lakes" (Byron on Keats). But Parris's trawl ranges far and wide. "With all my heart," replied John Horne Took to the suggestion that he should take a wife. "Whose wife shall it be?"



TOLD IN the form of diary extracts, the first volume in American Sandra Gulland's straightforward and likeable re-telling of the life of Josephine Buonaparte is laced with ribbons and period detail. Brought up in a Jean Rhys-like Martinique of sugar plantations and voodoo spells, Rose (as she is then known) is shipped off to France at the age of 15 to secure a suitable marriage. But with her new title of Vicomtesse comes tight corsets, painful childbirth and the terrors of the French Revolution. As the novel ends, so does Josephine's marriage, leaving her just the right side of 35 to catch the eye of the upwardly mobile Corsican, Napoleon Buonaparte.



THE ACCLAIMED Brontë biographer has brilliantly crafted these verbal snapshots into an epic home movie – touching, passionate and amusing. While the three sisters giggle at suitors ("he began to season his conversation with Hibernian flattery") and scribble like maniacs, we see brother Branwell decline from arrogant young Turk to decrepit sot ("contrive to get me five pence worth of gin"). The star of the show is Charlotte. Her view of the Crystal Palace as "strange, elegant but somewhat unsubstantial" is oddly familiar. She describes Filey in June as: "Dark, stormy and bitterly cold." Some things never change.



TEN YEARS on, the second book in Brian Aldiss's Squire Quartet has lost none of its vibrancy. In a generous and funny novel, Aldiss slips happily between life in contemporary North Oxford and wartime Burma. Clement Winter, analyst and don, has the job of sorting out his dead older brother's papers. A young soldier with the Forgotten Army, Joseph has never settled down. Clement's life, by contrast, is secure and successful. Married to a best-selling authoress of "Epic Fantasy", the only blip in his comfortable Oxford existence are his wife's affairs. The closer Clement comes to understanding his brother, the less he knows about himself.

## BEST-SELLERS

The value of TV tie-ins to book sales is underlined this week by the arrival in the non-fiction top 10 of *Making Friends in the UK*. Published in November, its sales figures soared from number 38 to number 10 after the much-hyped wedding episode of this US sitcom screened on 11 December. Similarly, the

sales of Bill Bryson's *Notes From a Big Country* and *Notes From a Small Island* will doubtless be boosted by a six-part ITV series, *Bill Bryson's Notes From a Small Island*, starting tomorrow. In the history and current affairs chart, the dominance of *Data Sobel's Longitude* looks unshakable but, with Millennium

fever in the air, perhaps another chronicle of timekeeping, *David Ewing Duncan's The Calendar*, will knock it off the top spot.

Compiled by data supplied on sales over seven days ending 9 January 1999  
© Bookwatch Ltd, 1999

## ORIGINAL FICTION

**TITLE**  
1 (9) Tom Clancy's Powerplays  
2 (-) Churchill's People  
3 (-) Miracle Cure  
4 (1) This United State  
5 (3) City Girl  
6 (-) Ramses 5  
7 (2) Carpe Jugulum  
8 (5) Archangel  
9 (8) Rainbow Six  
10 (7) Charlotte Gray

**AUTHOR/PUBLISHER**  
Tom Clancy (Penguin)  
Mary Jane Staples (Corgi)  
Michael Palmer (Arrow)  
Collin Forbes (Macmillan)  
Patricia Scanlan (Bantam)  
Christian Jacq (Simon & Schuster)  
Terry Pratchett (Doubleday)  
Robert Harris (Hutchinson)  
Torn Clancy (M Joseph)  
Sebastian Faulks (Hutchinson)

**WEEKLY SALES**  
4,522  
3,997  
2,924  
2,088  
1,553  
1,523  
1,417  
1,362  
1,336  
1,281

**PRICE**  
£5.99  
£5.99  
£5.99  
£5.99  
£16.99  
£9.99  
£16.99  
£16.99  
£16.99  
£16.99

**TITLE**  
1 (1) Della's How to Cook  
2 (4) Little Book of Feng Shui  
3 (5) The Little Book of Calm  
4 (-) Men are From Mars...  
5 (2) Notes From a Big Country  
6 (3) The Life of Birds  
7 (-) Birthday Letters  
8 (9) Real Food  
9 (10) Ethel and Ernest  
10 (-) Making Friends in the UK

**AUTHOR/PUBLISHER**  
Della Smith (BBC)  
Lillian Too (Element)  
Paul Wilson (Penguin)  
John Gray (Thorsons)  
Bill Bryson (Doubleday)  
David Attenborough (BBC)  
Ted Hughes (Faber)  
Nigel Slater (Fourth Estate)  
Raymond Briggs (Cape)  
Penny Stalhing (Channel 4)

**WEEKLY SALES**  
12,460  
4,279  
3,537  
3,421  
2,264  
1,888  
1,694  
1,555  
1,537  
1,507

**PRICE**  
£16.99  
£1.99  
£1.99  
£8.99  
£16.99  
£18.99  
£14.99  
£18.99  
£14.99  
£9.99

## HISTORY, POLITICS, CURRENT AFFAIRS

**TITLE**  
1 *Longitude*  
2 *The English*  
3 *Heaven's Mirror*  
4 *The Calendar*  
5 *Stalingrad*  
6 *Endurance*  
7 *Over Here*  
8 *East and West*  
9 *Like the Roman: Enoch Powell*  
10 *To the Last Man: Spring 1918*

**AUTHOR/PUBLISHER**  
David Sobel (Fourth Estate)  
Jeremy Paxman (M Joseph)  
Graham Hancock & Sandra Pelta (M Joseph)  
David Ewing Duncan (Fourth Estate)  
Antony Beevor (Viking)  
Caroline Alexander (Bloomsbury)  
Raymond Seitz (Phoenix)  
Chris Patten (Macmillan)  
Simon Heffer (Weidenfeld)  
Lyn Macdonald (Viking)

**WEEKLY SALES**  
2,095  
822  
804  
726  
709  
612  
504  
490  
404  
399

**PRICE**  
£5.99  
£20  
£20  
£12.99  
£25  
£20  
£7.99  
£22.50  
£25  
£25

## All in a Nobel cause

Zachary Leader warms to the kind of writer who could murder a critic

WHY WRITE? John Updike's answer, from an essay of 1976, is thoroughly Freudian: "the world, so balky and resistant and humiliating, can in the act of mimetic be rectified, adjusted, chastened, purified". Updike's comic hero, the Jewish-American novelist Henry Bech, would agree, calling art "both duplication and escape". But for Bech art is not enough. The chastening process must also be enacted, and where better to begin than with one's enemies? "I think you've shown a lot of balls, frankly," Bech's 26-year-old mistress, Robin, tells him when she discovers he's been systematically murdering the most hostile of his reviewers, "translating your resentments into action instead of sublimating them into art."

Robin herself, like this reaction, is pure wish-fulfilment. For though Bech's reputation has been quietly growing, unlike his oeuvre (three novels, two novellas, a "miscellany", a volume of "Sketches and Stories"), he is now 74. When he wins the Nobel Prize (Updike indulges all the male writer's fantasies, enumerated by Freud as "honour, power, wealth, fame and the love of women"), one thinks of Saul Bellow, whose fifth wife, Janis, is more than 40 years his junior. Bech, though, is no Bellow; or rather as in Updike's two previous collections about him, *Bech: A Book* (1970) and *Bech: Book* (1982), not quite Bellow; just as he's not quite Roth or Mailer or Malamud or Heller.

To begin with, he's a lot like Updike, for all the expertise observed Jewishness, even the writer's block (definitely not Updike's problem). Updike, too, is a sexy writer, and like Bech has been accused of misogyny and hatred of the body (Brother Pig, the title of the first of Bech's novellas, is "a con-

temptuous Medieval expression for the body").

He also supported, or at least refused to denounce, the Vietnam War (like Bech, "draft evasion disgusted him") and has often been labelled reactionary, memorably by Gore Vidal. The most wounding of the phrases Bech broods over from his bad reviews – "says nothing with surprising aplomb", "prose arabesques of astonishing irrelevancy" – recall the critic Gary Wills, for whom Updike's writing is "stylistic solipsism". Wills and Vidal, one notes, are the only real-life critics that Bech contemplates rubbing out.

Robin herself, like this reaction, is pure wish-fulfilment. For though Bech's reputation has been quietly growing, unlike his oeuvre (three novels, two novellas, a "miscellany", a volume of "Sketches and Stories"), he is now 74. When he wins the Nobel Prize (Updike indulges all the male writer's fantasies, enumerated by Freud as "honour, power, wealth, fame and the love of women"), one thinks of Saul Bellow, whose fifth wife, Janis, is more than 40 years his junior. Bech, though, is no Bellow; or rather as in Updike's two previous collections about him, *Bech: A Book* (1970) and *Bech: Book* (1982), not quite Bellow; just as he's not quite Roth or Mailer or Malamud or Heller.

To begin with, he's a lot like Updike, for all the expertise observed Jewishness, even the writer's block (definitely not Updike's problem). Updike, too, is a sexy writer, and like Bech has been accused of misogyny and hatred of the body (Brother Pig, the title of the first of Bech's novellas, is "a con-

temptuous Medieval expression for the body").

He also supported, or at least refused to denounce, the Vietnam War (like Bech, "draft evasion disgusted him") and has often been labelled reactionary, memorably by Gore Vidal. The most wounding of the phrases Bech broods over from his bad reviews – "says nothing with surprising aplomb", "prose arabesques of astonishing irrelevancy" – recall the critic Gary Wills, for whom Updike's writing is "stylistic solipsism". Wills and Vidal, one notes, are the only real-life critics that Bech contemplates rubbing out.

Robin herself, like this reaction,

story, whom he pushes under the D-Train at a Sixth Avenue station. The Oedipal echoes of critic, agent, and father – blocking figures all – reverberate throughout all the collection, delicately interweaving themes and plot motifs.

In the final story, "Bech and the County of Stornoway", Bech not only wins the Nobel Prize, but also marries the County of Stornoway, the best

story, whom he pushes under the D-Train at a Sixth Avenue station. The Oedipal echoes of critic, agent, and father – blocking figures all – reverberate throughout all the collection, delicately interweaving themes and plot motifs.

In the final story, "Bech and the County of Stornoway", Bech not only wins the Nobel Prize, but also marries the County of Stornoway, the best

story, whom he pushes under the D-Train at a Sixth Avenue station. The Oedipal echoes of critic, agent, and father – blocking figures all – reverberate throughout all the collection, delicately interweaving themes and plot motifs.

In the final story, "Bech and the County of Stornoway", Bech not only wins the Nobel Prize, but also marries the County of Stornoway, the best

story, whom he pushes under the D-Train at a Sixth Avenue station. The Oedipal echoes of critic, agent, and father – blocking figures all – reverberate throughout all the collection, delicately interweaving themes and plot motifs.

In the final story, "Bech and the County of Stornoway", Bech not only wins the Nobel Prize, but also marries the County of Stornoway, the best

story, whom he pushes under the D-Train at a Sixth Avenue station. The Oedipal echoes of critic, agent, and father – blocking figures all – reverberate throughout all the collection, delicately interweaving themes and plot motifs.

In the final story, "Bech and the County of Stornoway", Bech not only wins the Nobel Prize, but also marries the County of Stornoway, the best

story, whom he pushes under the D-Train at a Sixth Avenue station. The Oedipal echoes of critic, agent, and father – blocking figures all – reverberate throughout all the collection, delicately interweaving themes and plot motifs.

In the final story, "Bech and the County of Stornoway", Bech not only wins the Nobel Prize, but also marries the County of Stornoway, the best

story, whom he pushes under the D-Train at a Sixth Avenue station. The Oedipal echoes of critic, agent, and father – blocking figures all – reverberate throughout all the collection, delicately interweaving themes and plot motifs.

In the final story, "Bech and the County of Stornoway", Bech not only wins the Nobel Prize, but also marries the County of Stornoway, the best

story, whom he pushes under the D-Train at a Sixth Avenue station. The Oedipal echoes of critic, agent, and father – blocking figures all – reverberate throughout all the collection, delicately interweaving themes and plot motifs.

In the final story, "Bech and the County of Stornoway", Bech not only wins the Nobel Prize, but also marries the County of Stornoway, the best

story, whom he pushes under the

## COUNTRY &amp; GARDEN

## Money doesn't grow on trees

When you add up the annual cost of a garden the results may be frighteningly high. But Anna Pavord isn't daunted



Who wants to be battling with the January sales when you could be cruising peacefully through the garden centre among cyclamen, pansies and forget-me-nots? Plants and seeds are a much better bargain



Ardea

**W**hat does it actually cost to keep a garden going for a year? I don't really want to know the answer, but the relentless arrival of brown envelopes on the mat brings finance into focus at this moment. Nevertheless, I hang on to the conviction that seeds and plants remain one of the most miraculous bargains that money can buy. Who wants to battle with January sales when they could be cruising peacefully through their local garden centre, dreaming of forget-me-nots (£2.25 for a tray of six) or the possibilities of a clutch of flowering pansies (£1.99 for a tray of six).

The best way to save money in the garden is to make a list of what you want and stick to it. That is true of all shopping, of course. It is one of the reasons why supermarkets are so dangerous. You go in thinking of nothing but a bag of self-raising flour and come out with a jar of lemon-stuffed olives, a carton of

apple juice with mango and an oven cleaner that promises (but never delivers) miracles.

But though I may resent my own weak mindedness when I am wandering the supermarket's aisles, I positively encourage it when I'm among plants in a nursery. Different standards apply. I want to be led astray. I'd be unlikely to scoop up something huge and important, such as a tree, on a whim, but that leaves plenty of room for impulsive manoeuvre among herbaceous perennials and bulbs.

Only this week, I went into the garden centre for compost and came out with a delicious little cyclamen count (£3.49). Who could possibly resist its rounded leaves, symmetrically marked with silver? Its first magenta bud is already beginning to open. These cyclamen look frail, being only three or four inches high, but they are survivors, and undemanding. They will motor all season on a handful of bone-meal.

I did not need that cyclamen, but it has certainly given me more pleasure than any of the January sales.

apple juice with mango and an oven cleaner that promises (but never delivers) miracles.

But though I may resent my own weak mindedness when I am wandering the supermarket's aisles, I positively encourage it when I'm among plants in a nursery. Different standards apply. I want to be led astray. I'd be unlikely to scoop up something huge and important, such as a tree, on a whim, but that leaves plenty of room for impulsive manoeuvre among herbaceous perennials and bulbs.

Only this week, I went into the garden centre for compost and came out with a delicious little cyclamen count (£3.49). Who could possibly resist its rounded leaves, symmetrically marked with silver? Its first magenta bud is already beginning to open. These cyclamen look frail, being only three or four inches high, but they are survivors, and undemanding. They will motor all season on a handful of bone-meal.

I did not need that cyclamen, but it has certainly given me more pleasure than any of the January sales.

I doubt, for instance, whether I shall go through February without acquiring a hellebore or seven. I'll be very surprised if a trip I am planning to a nursery specialising in primroses leaves me empty-handed on my return. A garden needs treats and surprises to keep it fresh. And a gardener needs constantly to try out new ideas, and be captured afresh by the potential of some new find, or a new way of using a well-known friend. Often, your first ideas do not work. But looking for inspiration in gardening books is no substitute for endlessly engaging with your own patch, shifting, rearranging, occasionally achieving an effect that is worth leaving in place.

I am supposed here to be making a tally of what the garden has cost over the last year. Instead I find I'm arguing that, whatever it cost, it was worth it. Yes, I admit to extravagance in plants. But I'm cheap on machinery. We have a good lawnmower (Honda HRB 533 CEH, £260), but no other gadgets. That perhaps I have been slow to come to admire. You can't stand the noise they make. Leaf vacs?

What a terrible idea! Who wants to vacuum the garden after several hours wasted vacuuming the house?

I'm cheap on tools, too, as mine are mostly the ones my great-uncle used before they came to me. Any-one who has a new garden and no tools should save up for a stainless steel spade and border fork (Veermans brand cost £24.99 each). Good tools will become close friends, but poorly made ones will pull gardeners down to their own tacky, insubstantial level.

Expenditure on herbicides and pesticides depends on your attitude. I sit on the fence, using as little as possible of either, but unwilling to do without entirely.

Last January I bought slug pellets (£1.99) because the wretches were eating my *Iris stylosa* before I had time to pick them. In February I bought a pack of the residual weedkiller Pathclear (£23.88). Plants had taken over the paths on the bank, and I was enthusiastic that I could scarcely push my way through. But no other gadgets. That one dose will provide all the food the plants in the pots need for a season. They can't be expected to survive without help. Bonemeal (£2.56) is as standard an ingredient of the garden store as flour is in the larder. I use it whenever I plant.

Having good soil, which we plaster liberally with muck and compost every winter and spring, I spend as little as possible on plant foods or medicines. We needed some of the iron tonic called Sequestrene (four packets at £1.25 each) to dose our sickly-looking wisteria, and I also bought Osmocote slow-release fertiliser (£7.45) to sprinkle on the pots round the garden. That one dose will help in the fight against bindweed. That is the total poison bill.

Having good soil, which we plaster liberally with muck and compost every winter and spring, I spend as little as possible on plant foods or medicines. We needed some of the iron tonic called Sequestrene (four packets at £1.25 each) to dose our sickly-looking wisteria, and I also bought Osmocote slow-release fertiliser (£7.45) to sprinkle on the pots round the garden. That one dose will help in the fight against bindweed. That is the total poison bill.

Branches that hang out from the wall may be frost or caught by wind. Masses of vine eyes get eaten up in our kitchen garden, banged into the stone walls to provide anchors for the espalier and fan-trained pears.

I bought two balls of soft brown twine (£2.39 each), and gravel (£1.55 a sack) to top-dress the pots of tulips by the back door. We needed more bamboo canes for the tomato plants, (10 x 6ft canes at 26p each and 10 x 7ft ones at 25p) and four sacks of mini-chip bark to cover the newly weed-killed paths (£5.25 each). I bought some wildly extravagant new plant labels (life is too short to cut up old yoghurt pots) and a special pen with ink that will not wash off in the rain (£2.91 together).

So, is this the final bill for expenditure on the garden last year? No, of course it is not. It just covers the boring bits – and it is all I'm admitting to. What I spend on plants will for ever remain a secret between me and my deliciously indulgent bank manager.

CUTTINGS  
NEWS FROM THE GARDENERS' WORLD

Send a large sae for a catalogue. Plants will be sent out in March.

OUR WEATHERVANE was a present from my father-in-law, an expression of his relief that, after 12

a host of other breeds, I am intrigued by their pricing structure. Why should a Weimaraner (band C, £89.50) be so much cheaper than a springer spaniel (band G, £142.50)? They also do ravens, curlews, cats

from Unit 5, Fen End Industrial Estate, Fen End, Stodfold, Hitchin, Herts SG5 4BA (01462 734006).

"I AM scratching out upon Paper ten thousand Designs for... parts of the Garden & my plans commonly come to the same fate... they are flung into the fire and forgotten," wrote the owner of Marston in Somerset in 1733. Garden history generally concentrates on the plans that worked. In his engaging book, *Polite Landscapes* (Alan Sutton, £18.99), Tom Williamson goes beyond the great showpieces of William Kent and "Capability" Brown to expose the wider social, economic and political implications of the 18th-century landscape.

He emphasises how practical was the relationship between client and designer. Land could not be disposed by aesthetic principles alone. Landowners had farms to run, forests to manage; the livelihoods of thousands of agricultural workers depended on these enterprises remaining profitable. As for the designers, they, too, had to be businessmen as well as artists. Repton, a great 18th-century landscape designer, wrote despairingly of the "time and contrivance wasted to produce plans although highly approved, yet from vanity, from indecision, or from the fickleness of human nature, not infrequently thrown aside."

Williamson's grasp of detail brings that distant period brilliantly alive.

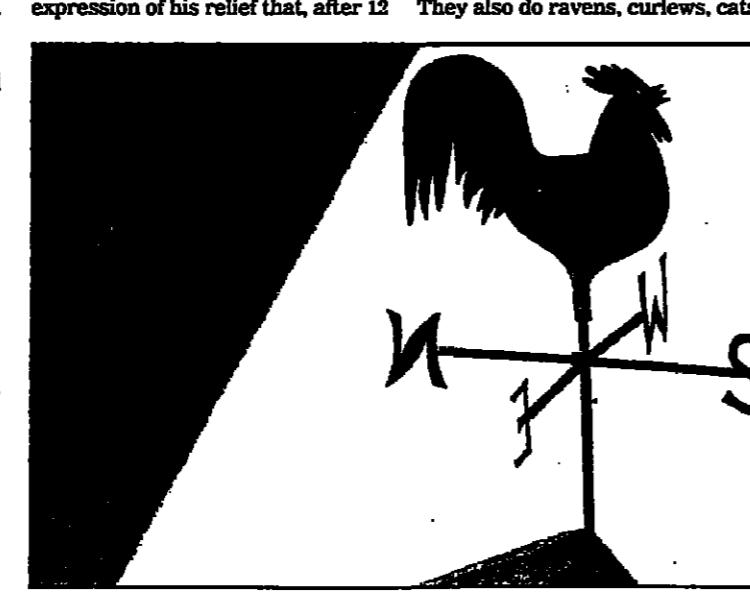
ANNA PAVORD

years or so working on the house, we had finally got a dry roof over our heads. It was the finishing touch to the gable roof. Weather vanes in a wide choice of designs are made in Hertfordshire by Webb's. They don't just do dogs; they do Border terrier, greyhound, whippet, Labrador, dachshund and

in various poses, sheep, horses, the traditional cockerel and a design called Fergie. It's not the D of Y (though she'd make a good windvane) but everyone's favourite tractor. Prices for medium weather vanes measuring 21in from west to east range from £84.50 to £152. Webb's catalogue is available

at £1.99. Webb's catalogue is available at £1.99.

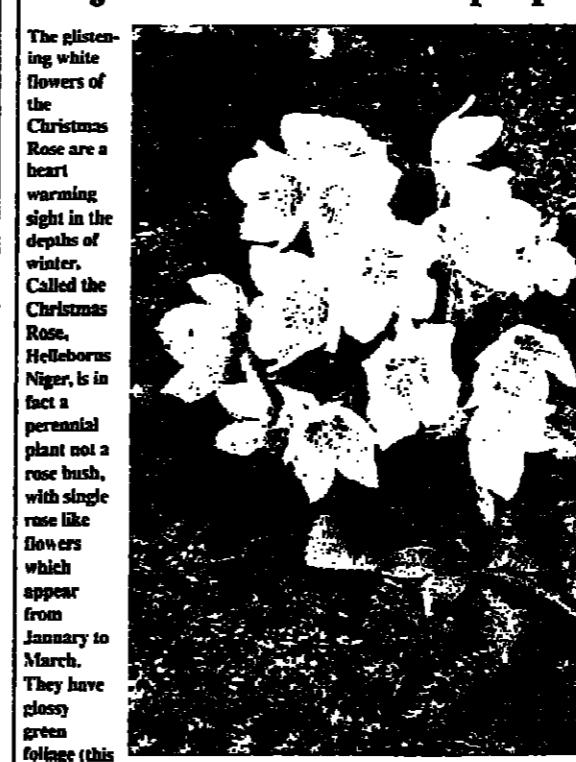
ANNA PAVORD



## THE INDEPENDENT

## Helleborus Niger

just £7.95 for 10 inc p&amp;p



HOW TO ORDER Fill in the coupon and send together with a cheque or postal order. NO CASH please.

THE INDEPENDENT HELLBORUS NIGER OFFER, PO Box 64, South West District Office, Manchester M16 4HY.

FOR ACCESS/VISA ORDERS, PLEASE PHONE 0161 848 1185

Please quote ref INC94 when ordering. We deliver to addresses in the UK only. Please allow up to 28 days for delivery from receipt of order. Returns within 14 days, subject to availability.

Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ Pack(s) of 10 Helleborus Niger at £7.95 per pack inc p&amp;p

I enclose a crossed cheque for £\_\_\_\_\_ (address on back) made payable to: Independent Newspapers (UK) Ltd INC94 or debit my Access/Visa account by this amount. My card number is: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

POSTCODE: \_\_\_\_\_

TAX CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

TO THE INDEPENDENT HELLBORUS NIGER OFFICE, PO Box 64, South West District Office, Manchester M16 4HY.

Please tick this box if you do not wish to receive UK Ltd or companies regional papers.

Independent Newspapers (UK) Ltd INC94



INDEPENDENT ADVICE FOR THE INDEPENDENT TRAVELLER:  
FROM THE ONLY NATIONAL NEWSPAPER TRAVEL SECTION THAT REFUSES FREE TRIPS

'The air up here is worth sixpence a pint,' said Tennyson (pictured below en famille) of the downland that sweeps across to The Needles (above) Corbis

# Anyone for Tennyson?

Freshwater Bay on the Isle of Wight was a cultural shrine for the Victorians, who flocked here to see their poet-hero. Today, Mick Webb finds inspiration in its grey stones and winter skies

**B**reak, break, break, on thy cold grey stones, oh sea", and break it certainly did, crashing on the pebbles of Freshwater Bay, just as Alfred Lord Tennyson had commanded in his famous lines. The western end of the Isle of Wight is Tennyson country, and his legacy is but one reason for paying a winter visit here. Almost severed from the rest of the island, it is self-contained, very beautiful and, at this time of year, as quiet as... West Wight out of season. As we played dodge-the-spray on a chilly grey morning, looking forward to soup and a pint in the handily placed Albion Hotel, it was hard to imagine that this was once a literary and cultural shrine. One guidebook goes so far as to compare mid-19th-century Freshwater Bay to ancient Athens under Pericles, as eminent Victorians beat a path to Tennyson's door to share his wisdom and join his circle.

Nowadays, though, you don't need literary credentials to stay at the poet's home; it has become the Farriagord Hotel, which, as well as the usual hotel rooms, has a number of self-catering suites and buildings for



rent. We, a family of four, stayed in one of the "garden" cottages, which are arranged around a lawn that was once a tennis court enjoyed by the poet's sons. My own children played Frisbee and football there - we can only guess what the great man would have thought of that. He certainly wasn't keen on the influx of ordinary visitors that railway travel brought to the island.

What hasn't changed much since Tennyson's time is the broad and beautiful swath of downland that crowns the cliffs between Freshwater Bay and the Needles. "The air up here is worth sixpence a pint," the poet laureate was fond of quoting. I expect that is about £10 at today's rates, and worth every penny. And that is without counting the views, at their best from the Tennyson Monument, over the Solent to the mainland or out across the English Channel. We walked the three exhilarating miles from Freshwater Bay to the Needles, though these were a bit of a disappointment, smaller than expected, and rather more like shark's teeth than needles. The other tourist attraction of the area, Alum Bay, where my mum once filled a little glass lighthouse

birds, which include oystercatchers and little egrets.

I am reliably informed that in summer the sea around here is very warm and welcoming. In winter, though, the best thing to do with the sea is to watch it, ideally from behind a nice piece of glass, and West Wight is not short of this kind of facility. Apart from the Albion at Freshwater Bay, there is a pub called The Waterfront on the seafront at Totland whose long and spacious conservatory has windows facing seawards, while the Dimbola Lodge in Freshwater Bay combines a tearoom-with-a-view, a little bookshop, and a gallery given over mainly to the photographic work of Mrs Julia Margaret Cameron. She was a pioneering photographer noted for her portraits of Carlyle, Darwin, Browning and many other famous visitors to Freshwater, and she was very much part of the Tennyson set.

At this time of year, most of the leisure parks and complexes are closed, and very sad and abandoned they look. But then fun and games and late nights are not what West Wight is really about. Apart from rambling and birdwatching, you can

see glass and porcelain being made, and find out all about pearls.

After dark, the main source of entertainment is the pubs, where children are welcomed, menus are varied and portions are large. My favourite meal was at The Fat Cat on the Bay, where the proud boast is that "home-made means home-made", and the patron stocks a lethal collection of spirits - calvados, marc, sambuca, grappa... Just writing the names makes my head spin. Still a quick walk down to Freshwater Bay soon sorts you out.

Two companies operate ferries to the Isle of Wight: Wightlink (01705 827744), from Portsmouth to Ryde and Fishbourne, and Lymington to Yarmouth; and Red Funnel (01703 227599) from Southampton to Cowes. Mick Webb travelled by Wightlink Ferries from Portsmouth to Fishbourne. The trip cost £40 for a five-day return for car with two adults and two children.

At Farringford Hotel (01983 752500), self-catering cottages cost from £30 a day (£180 a week); hotel rooms from £20 per person.

For more details, call Yarmouth Tourist Office 01983 813818

"HAD WE not been the world's greatest optimists, we would not have gone on" - not the words of a passenger on Virgin Trains, but the revolutionary recollections of Fidel Castro. In Havana last night, he and I commemorated (though not together) the 40th anniversary of the triumphant arrival in the Cuban capital of his rebel army, a week after the dictator Batista had fled the country.

Cuba calls itself "The land of miracles". Besides all the true-but-clipped wonders that you could easily come up with about the Caribbean's largest and most entrancing island, here are a few more that the traveller here may marvel at: that it is possible to weld together several bits of Lada saloons to create a stretch limousine in this last bastion of Marxism-Leninism; that the last country to join the Soviet bloc has survived the collapse of all its ideological soubrieties; and that it took until this week for the United States to begin to ease the ineffectual economic stranglehold on Cuba, whose main victims have been its Cuban citizens.

British travellers are more fortunate than we often realise. For a start, anyone deciding to depart the UK by sea can get a passport within weeks - and a heavily subsidised ticket across the Channel. Those who hope to leave Cuba a cross the Florida Straits have missed the raft-risk life and limb on the treacherous stretch of water to Key West no longer automatically results in US citizenship. We are luckier, too, than the average American, who is banned from travelling to the closest overseas country by order of his or her own government. Anyone who spends cash in Cuba without previously obtaining a special licence is liable to receive a 10-year prison sentence.

This week, a beleaguered Bill Clinton agreed to increase the number of flights between Miami and Havana. For a decade, these have been known as ghost flights; unlike almost any other flight in the world, they cannot be booked direct with the airline and instead you are told to turn up at a distant corner of Miami airport with a wad of cash. I have tried this, and it works, though a return fare of £150 for a half-hour flight is extortionate.

Before being allowed to board, British travellers have to sign a piece of paper to promise not to be Americans. The airlines that have benefited from this curious arrangement include Mexicana and Haitian TransAir, brought in as uncontroversial third-party carriers - the island's national



**SIMON CALDER**  
A US citizen who spends cash in Cuba without a licence can receive a 10-year prison sentence

airline, Cubana, being plane non grata. Now, though, the skies over Havana are alive with the sight of United Airlines jets, with other US carriers set to follow.

For British travellers, the long-term benefit is likely to mean much easier access to Cuba. A two-centre holiday combining thrilling-but-artificial Florida fun parks with the intense and entirely human excitement of Cuba sounds logical, but for the last four decades such a trip has been inadmissible. When, or perhaps, that should be a very big "if"! Fidel Castro celebrates his half-century in charge. Britain's biggest tour operator to Florida - Virgin Holidays - will be offering Mickey Mouse-meets-Marxism vacations. But perhaps I'm being too optimistic.

HAVANA WAS the place where the International Air Transport Association was founded; in 1945, as the world emerged from war, the airlines gathered at the Hotel Nacional to form a cartel. Such is the state of the Cuban economy that many of the aircraft in the island look as though they were around to ferry the original delegates.

Yet just as the lumbering old pre-Revolutionary Buicks and Cadillacs have bestowed chic on the Cuban capital, so, too, has the ageing fleet of aircraft acquired a certain appeal to tourists. The Aerotaxi enterprise does not hire out executive jets; instead, it operates a fleet of single-engined Soviet biplanes. Places on these aircraft are popular with day-tripping tourists, who arrived on aircraft equipped with the latest "fly-by-wire" technology and wish to experience some retro "fly-with-wire" aviation.

These eight-seaters fly in formation, and the sight of five of them taking off in sequence is remarkable. If you prefer a bit more comfort (but not much), you may be pleased to learn that the authorities have decided to upgrade their tourist fleet by purchasing a DC-3 for use on day trips.

## January Sail NOW ON

Unlimited free trips to France with every Annual policy!

Buy Annual Travel cover before 16 February and enjoy unlimited trips to Calais on board SeaFrance Ferries, until 30 April 1990, with our compliments.

Annual membership includes:

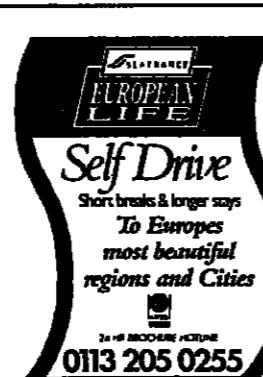
- Worldwide cover for an unlimited number of trips
- Year round UK cover - starting 25 miles from home
- 21 days on or off piste ski cover - free
- 24 hour Medical and Legal Helpline

Call now for instant cover and claim your free trips to France.

Subject to availability. Full terms & conditions available.



ONE CALL AND YOU'RE COVERED  
0800 365 121  
REF: IN0403



## IN TODAY'S MAGAZINE



Holidays for mind, body and spirit: 48-page travel special

## ACTIONAID LOTTO

The winning LottoAid numbers for draw date 24th December 1989 are:

1st 03013 2nd 030354 3rd 023085 4th 025830 5th 031253

The winning LottoAid numbers for draw date 31st December 1989 are:

1st 032594 2nd 028421 3rd 022498 4th 024763 5th 030707

The winning LottoAid numbers for draw date 7th January 1990 are:

1st 029590 2nd 021727 3rd 021406 4th 025077 5th 031461

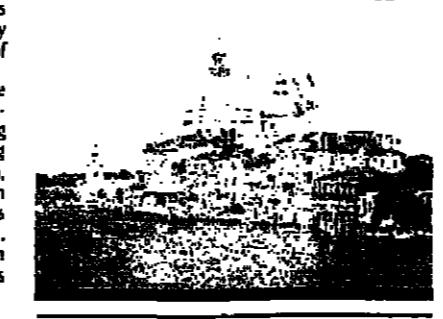
75% of all proceeds from LottoAid go directly to fund ActionAid's fight against world poverty.

For details of how to play, please telephone the helpline on 01483 627222. Registered charity no. 229447

## A Cruise of Venice & The Lagoon

INCLUDING A SPECIAL JANUARY PRICE OFFER

On board the Swiss-managed MS Venezia or MS Viking Bordeaux visiting Venice, Burano, Torcello & Chioggia



3 or 4 nights from £295

### THE MS VIKING BORDEAUX

The first-class, Swiss-managed MS Venezia has just 100 berths with the accommodation spread over two decks with each cabin having picture windows and en suite facilities. There is a bar, a one-sitting restaurant, lounge and viewing deck. The MS Venezia besides being our accommodation and base, which takes us to Venice, is also a means of transportation to the islands of the lagoon, returning to minor in Venice each night. The MS Venezia operates in January, March and April 1 departures. Please note that during March sailings will be made by both vessels.

### DEPARTURE DATES & PRICES

£99 per person in twin cabin  
Prices shown are for a single cabin departing  
Masters return Masters - Supercabin £1,000  
MS Venezia £1,000

Jan 14\*, 21\* £295

Feb 1, 4\*, 8, 11\*, 15, 18\*, 22, 25\* £295

Mar 1, 4\*, 8, 11\*, 15, 18\*, 22 £350

April 1\* £395

April 8\*, 12, 15\*, 19, 22\* £375

\* Special January Price Offer

For January 14 and 21 departures (4 night weekend cruises) we are offering a special Run of the Ship price of £290.00 per person including the weekend supplement. A limited number of cabins are available at this special price on the understanding that booking will be accepted subject to availability and that we will not confirm the cabin category until nearer the departure date.

Supplements: Single cabin supplement £95, Supplement for the Venice Carnival period

Feb 6-17, 1990 departures:

Feb 8 & 15 £295 and Feb 4 & 11 £495

Upper Deck cabin supplement £295

MS - MS Bordeaux has 2 upper decks.

Comprehensive excursion package £95.

Price includes: as detailed above. Not included: travel insurance, overseas airport tax, tipping. Our current Conditions of Booking (a copy of which is available on request) shall apply to all reservations.

0171-616 1000

Voyages Jules Verne

21 Dorset Square, London NW1 0QG

Travel Agents Ltd, tel: 0171-616 1000

For details of how to book, please telephone the helpline 0171-616 1000.

This office opens for telephone reservations from Sun to Sat open weekdays 8am-8pm. Sat 9am-5pm. Sun 10am-5pm. Closed 25 & 26 December, 1 & 2 January.

For further information, please contact the helpline 0171-616 1000.



As they wave their way through the trees, Alex couldn't help but miss that familiar scent of diesel.

Alex, 38, architect. And family. Loves golf, Bristol rugby club, and getting out and about with the family. Hates Bath rugby club and the sounds and sweet air of traffic.

On the edge of the Lake District, Oasis offers over 100 activities in 400 acres, including the World of Water.

For a brochure call 08705 086 086, quoting OIN90 or see your travel agent.

Prices start from £182 for a family of 4 for 4 nights.

www.oasisols.co.uk

Send to: Oasis Forest Holiday Villages, FREEPOST LON 11477, LONDON N4 1BR.

Mr/Mrs/Ms Initials Surname

Address

Postcode

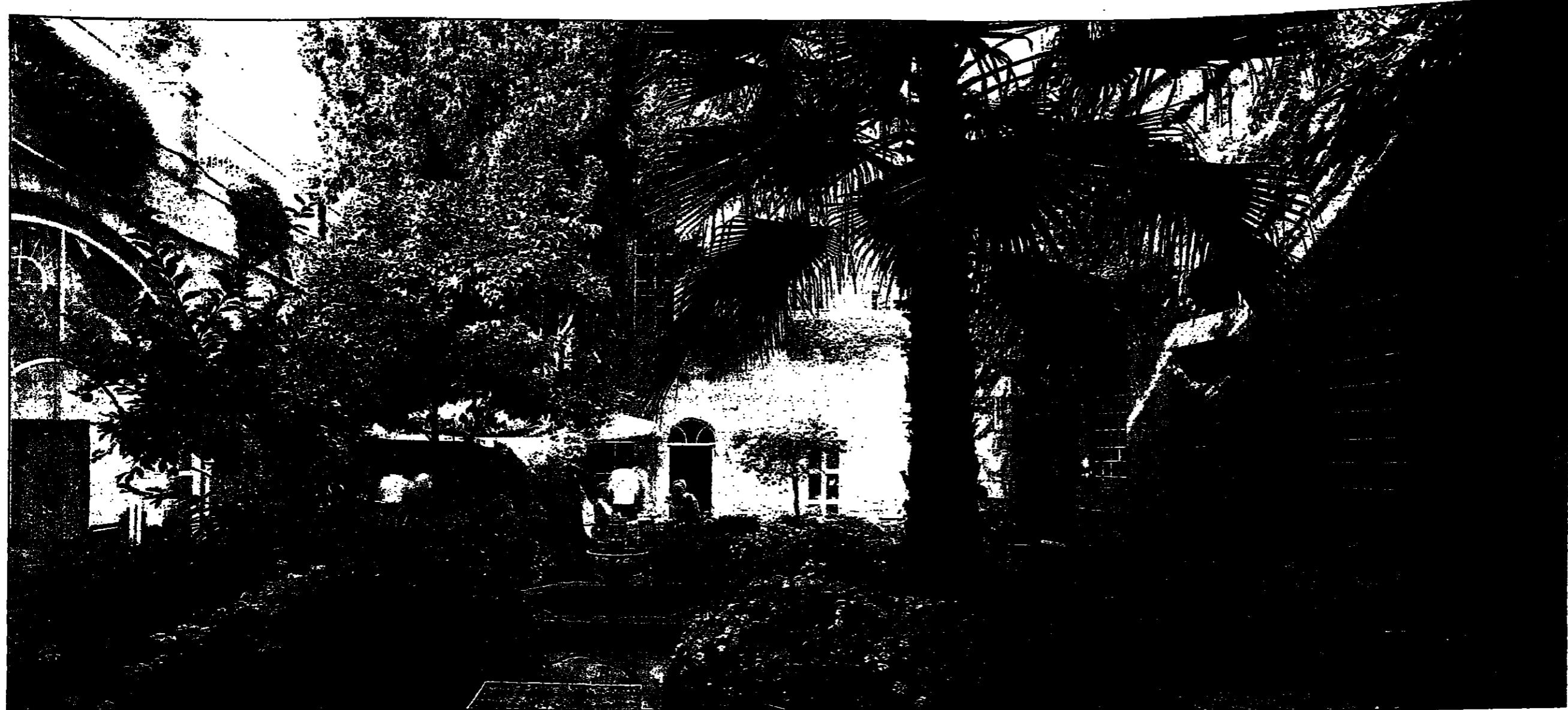
0171-616 1000

Oasis

Forest Holiday Villages

Nowhere comes close

Call 08705 086 086



The courtyard of the American Colony Hotel offers a perfect place to sit and read, or simply contemplate life

Book

EARLY

FLY TO SOUTH AFRICA FROM £425 RETURN

From the finest wines to the wildest wildlives, South Africa is a land of remarkable contrasts and incredible beauty. Book now for a special fare of just £425 return, it needn't be beyond your reach. But this special fare is only available if you book before 20th February 1999. So book now with South African Airways today on 0870 747 1111. Or call your travel agent. Africa's Warmest Welcome awaits you.

AFRICA'S WARMEST WELCOME

Beijing	£324	Denver	£269
Boston	£209	Dubai	£344
Cairo	£219	Hong Kong	£398
Cape Town	£361	Jo'burg	£361
Chicago	£249	Kuala Lumpur	£400

# Planet Earth.

Now available from an airport near you.

Flights are return from 21 UK airports and are via Amsterdam with KLM uk and partners. Call 0990 074 074, contact your local travel agent or see Teletext page 373.

From all over the UK, to all over the world. **KLM uk**

Flights must be booked by 23/01/99. Fares apply to selected dates and flights only - subject to limited availability and restrictions. Fares include all airport taxes. Flights from Jersey via London Stansted.

and many more...





TEL: 0171 293 2222

## OVERSEAS, BROCHURES '99

THE WEEKEND REVIEW  
The Independent, 9 January 1999

FAX: 0171 293 2505

book online at [www.go.fly.com](http://www.go.fly.com)

Take Off

Take Off

Take Off

Take Off

edinburgh from £40 rtn

copenhagen/milan from £60 rtn

bologna/rome/lisbon from £70 rtn

travel out and back on a mon, tue, wed  
or sat between 11 jan and 10 feb

stay at least 2 nights

book by 23 jan

venice £80 rtn

munich £80 rtn

every seat, every flight, every day

fly by 11 feb

stay at least 2 nights

two more reasons to go™

0845 60 54321 **go**

the new low cost airline from british airways

Overseas Travel

Overseas Travel

Greece

## HOLIDAY HOMES IN FRANCE &amp; SPAIN

## DISCOVER NEW WAYS TO ENJOY HOLIDAY FRANCE &amp; SPAIN

The new 1999 Holiday Homes in France and Spain is now available. It features over 1000 self-catering holidays and a great choice of carefully selected hotels.

BOOK EARLY AND  
SAVE 20%  
ON THE RENTAL PRICE

BROCHURES 0990 143 537 RESERVATIONS 0990 360 360 or see your Travel Agent

CHOOSE FROM  
OVER 1000  
SELF-CATERING  
HOLIDAYSThere are still  
bits of Greece  
just waiting to be  
discovered.You can still discover the real Greece. We have traditional  
hotels, villas and apartments in  
the villages of Perger and Stroga  
and on the islands of Halki, Lesvos,  
Crete, Corfu, Zakynthos,  
Lefkada, Rhodes and Cyprus.  
Flight from London, Birmingham  
Gatwick, Gatwick, Stansted  
book by 23 JanSIMPLY TRAVEL'S  
GreeceThe Peloponnese,  
Halki, Zakinthos,  
Santorini, Crete,  
Lesvos, Corfu, Zakynthos,  
Lefkada, Rhodes and Cyprus.  
Flight from London, Birmingham  
Gatwick, Gatwick, Stansted  
book by 23 JanSPECIALIST  
GREECEIncluding direct to  
Edessa & Lefkada.  
Fully included Fly Drive,  
includes smaller villages,  
walking and cycling.

0181 995 9323

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

0181 847 4748

018

# Cape of good times

The south-western tip of Portugal offers an intriguing base to explore the Algarve. By James Von Leyden

**A**t the tip of the Algarve, on the south-western extremity of continental Europe, lies Cabo de São Vicente. For the Romans, this windswept promontory marked the limit of the known world. It was a sacred spot, the Promontorium Sacrum, where the sun sank into the ocean each night in a blazing fireball. In 1570 the cape marked the site of a decisive sea battle between Britain and Spain.

These days, two rather different hordes converge on Cape St Vincent. From the east, from their high-rise apartments in Albufeira, package tourists come to peer over the headland and eat hot dogs under the sign "Letze bratwurst vor Amerika".

From the north come surfers - tattooed road warriors heading down from the beaches of Odeceixe, Arriana and Carrapateira. Carrapateira is an excellent base to explore the hinterland. The marshy river valley is home to osprey and herons. You can walk or ride up through eucalyptus and

chestnut groves into the Serra de Monchique, a verdant mountain range which forms the northern boundary of the Algarve. Along the roadside you will see gnarled cork oaks, their trunks stripped and daubed with the date of harvesting. Although the western Algarve is an important centre of cork production, it is one of Europe's most deprived regions. Tourism has yet to make an impact here, although the European

Union Development Fund has sponsored a programme of road-building in an effort to open up the interior. An hour's drive along one such road brings you to the spa town of Caldas de Monchique. Nestling in a ravine of eucalyptus and plane trees, Caldas de Monchique has been a favoured destination for health seekers since Roman times. In the 19th century wealthy Spaniards came here to take the waters. Trails wind

up from Monchique to Pico de Pica, a 770-metre rocky outcrop from where you can see Cape St Vincent, the beaches of the southern Algarve and, on an exceptionally clear day, the hills of Spain.

Getting there: Charter flights operate from several UK airports to Faro (about 90 minutes' drive from the area), but in winter it may be easier to find space on a scheduled

flight. British Airways 0845 222 1111 flies from Heathrow and currently has a World Offer of £160.00 for a return ticket (including taxi). TAP Air Portugal 0171 829 0261 flies daily from Heathrow and is offering return fares of £157.80 (including taxi) for midweek departures. While British Midland 0845 551 5517 has two flights a week from East Midlands airport and has a return fare of £18.80 (with taxi).

Where to stay: In Carrapateira the villa Casa Pajara (00 351 82 97 123) charges £5 per twin room. The three-star Albergaria Velha 00 351 82 91 01 20 in Caldas de Monchique costs around £22 per night for a twin room. Between May and October, try the Albergaria Lapedo 00 351 82 91 26 16 in Caldas de Monchique - it boasts an outdoor swimming pool planted with camellia and jacaranda.

The beach at Carrapateira is one of the most dramatic - and deserted - in Europe

James Von Leyden

Photograph: James Von Leyden

Map: James Von Leyden

Inset: James



# Escape from Avoriaz ...

An early encounter with a French snowboarder prompted Stephen Wood to explore further afield. He didn't regret it

**T**he suggestion by the mayor of the small resort of La Bresse, in the Vosges, that gendarmes should be posted on ski slopes, made the front pages of many French newspapers last week. In a quiet period for news - and high season for skiing - mayors of resorts all over France were consulted on their views (almost unanimously negative) of the initiative, which had been prompted by four accidents in three days at La Bresse, all involving injuries and all caused by snowboarders.

To keep the story going, Le Parisien sent a reporter to Avoriaz, in the Portes du Soleil ski area, where he conducted a straw poll among skiers on whether the conduct of snowboarders warranted police surveillance. He quoted at length Clara Deboux, a skieuse parisienne "terrorised" by snowboarders (*surfeurs*, as they are termed). Safety on the pistes had, she said, been reduced by the "new race known as *surfeurs*. They come from nowhere, and cut across in front of you. They are a permanent source of concern."

No doubt interviewing a skieuse parisienne was more appealing than talking to a middle-aged Londoner staying for the week in Avoriaz. But I could have given the reporter a better story, perhaps with the headline "Piste menace claims another victim".

My experience of skiing in Avoriaz was short and bitter. I set off down the narrow track - crowded with beginners - which leads to the main lift base. Towards the bottom, it has the added hazard of a pylon right in the middle. It was here, about 90 seconds after I had clicked into my bindings, that a snowboarder flew into me.

The pile of snow behind the pylon looked like a good launch-pad to him; so, hurtling down to its right, he suddenly carved a sharp left-hand turn, took off, and executed what would have been a 360-degree mid-air spin if he hadn't been minding my own business on the left-hand side of the pylon. He made it to about 270 degrees before landing on me.

Of course there's never a gendarme around when you need one and I could only explain explicitly what he was, English and then - once I had collected myself and my skis poles - in French.

At Avoriaz, it's difficult to recover quickly from such a shock, because 30 per cent of the resort's clientele are snowboarders (thanks to its reputation for having pioneered facilities for them). When the characteristic swooshing and crunching of a snowboarder in your wake causes apprehension and anxiety, Avoriaz is no place to be, and in my dark mood, the drawbacks of the place multiplied. It was hellishly crowded, for a start (not the resort's fault but mine, for going there between Christmas and the new year); the piste map was the worst I have ever come across; and the purpose-built mid-Sixties resort, with its jagged, timber-faced apartment towers, looked as if it had been designed by a matchstick-model maker.

The list of complaints might have grown longer, but I did not ski in Avoriaz again. Because one of its virtues is that it is so easy to leave - from Avoriaz it is possible to ski to nine of the other resorts in the Portes du Soleil area, a great loop of skiing, crossing several valleys plus the border between Switzerland and France, and offering 650km of pistes and 212 lifts.

The consumer within the Portes du Soleil is predominantly

made up of skiers heading into Avoriaz, which is the highest and most snow-sure resort with the most challenging skiing. But, going in the opposite direction, I had a choice of destinations. I plumped for the small, family resort of Les Gets.

An easy, 25-minute trip by road, the journey on skis from Avoriaz to Les Gets is one of the most complicated links in the Portes du Soleil, involving five lifts and one surface transfer across Morzine.

The skiing at Les Gets, split into three areas, is much softer than that of Avoriaz. But it was just what I wanted: quiet, with short lift queues, plenty of room on the pistes, and mercifully few snowboarders. On the western side of the village is a largish, open ski area running down from the Mont Chéry ridge, on which there is a superb Alpine panorama, the peaks (including Mont Blanc to the south east) all identified on a circular orientation table. Beyond it a red run sweeps down into the next valley, with a jolly, heavily moguled black piste running alongside.

To the west is the main ski area, mainly red runs (including a few woodland adventures) but with some nursery slopes set high above the village. Finally, there are the wooded slopes beyond the Pléney ridge, from which blues and reds run down to Morzine, on the route back to Avoriaz.

I have reason to be grateful for that

snowboarding hooligan at Avoriaz; if our paths had not crossed, I would probably not have skied at Les Gets. But I shall be grateful, too, if he and his buddies are back at school when I next venture to Avoriaz. Because then I'll be able to enjoy its skiing, and have a crack at the legendary black run, the "Wall" of Chavanne. I do prefer to create my own disasters rather than have them visited upon me by flying snowboarders.



The village resort of Les Gets offers softer - and less hazardous - skiing than more popular Avoriaz

Scottish Daily Record

TEL: 0171 293 2222

Activity Holidays



Devon & Cornwall



Scotland



Country Cottages in Scotland

An extensive collection of Scotland's finest holiday properties. Cottages and lodges perfect for a quiet break or a gathering of friends. Free colour brochure

Ring 0870 585 1133

QUOTE: 54166 Colour service

Special Interest



£399

etc ref: 181

SCOTLAND



CONSULT THE EXPERTS!

Over 2,000 self-catering properties in all areas from luxury houses to craft cottages.

Write or phone for brochure

Ring 01242 240 310

SCOTLAND



superb selection

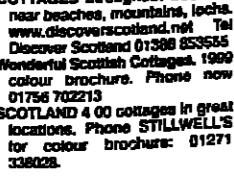
of great value self-catering cottages, houses and lodges in the hills and by the sea in beautiful Dumfries & Galloway.

FIELD COTTAGE RESIDENCE

G.M. THOMSON & CO. LTD. D.G.1 1AB

Tel: 01753 652277

SCOTLAND



555 QUALITY COTTAGES in the

Scottish Borders

555 Quality Cottages. Tel:

01753 652269

SCOTLAND



4000 cottages in great

locations. Phone STILLWELLS

for colour brochure: 01271

338025

TRAVEL: OVERSEAS, UK

FAX: 0171 293 2505

Overseas Travel

Enjoy the Imperial Highlights of  
PRAGUE, VIENNA  
AND BUDAPEST

Departing May to October 1999

This new tour for 1999 takes  
us to three of the most  
elegant and fascinating  
cities you can imagine,  
and is sure to have  
something for everyone!

THIS SUPERB HOLIDAY FEATURES

- FREE local departures from over 300 pick-up points in England and Wales, on British coaches with air conditioning, reclining seats, on board toilet/washroom and drinks machine.
- For your convenience, comfortable en-route hotel stays in Belgium so no overnight continental travel.
- 6 nights in the Prague, Budapest and Vienna areas with half board. All bedrooms have private facilities.
- Included half-day guided sightseeing tour of Prague
- Included full-day visit to Budapest
- Included full-day visit to Vienna

9 days  
from only  
£339  
SIX NIGHTS HALF BOARD



CALL NOW!  
FOR YOUR FREE 84 PAGE  
COLOUR BROCHURE!

Leger  
EUROPE

Discover Leger's  
legendary value-for-  
money. Over 90 superb  
holidays to 15 countries  
including short breaks,  
Lakes & Mountains,  
Disneyland® Paris,  
Battlefield Tours and  
much more...

CALL NOW 01709 839 839

MON-FRI 8.30am-7.30pm · SAT 9.00am-5.00pm · SUN 10.00am-4.00pm

Leger

CARLTON MEADOWS ROTHERHAM S60 2XR

PLEASE SEND ME DETAILS OF YOUR IMPERIAL HIGHLIGHTS HOLIDAY

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

POSTCODE: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Interest Holidays

FROM A TO M ON TO N.Z. ....

From Austria to Morocco and on to New Zealand via all the interesting places that span the globe! Join one of our friendly led walking parties - each graded to suit your ability - and see our wonderful world close at hand. From sightseeing on foot in cities, day rambles through enjoyable countryside to challenging walking in the hills and mountains, there is something for everyone.

RAMBLERS HOLIDAYS: 24 hour brochure line: 01707 339039

2 Church Rd (Box 43), Wehyn Garden, AL8 6PQ

Tel: 01707 331133 Fax: 01707 333276 E-mail: ramhols@pipedix.com



Established 1946

Special Interest Holidays

EXPLORER Worldwide

A unique selection of small group exploratory

holidays from the UK's leading

adventure tour company.

Rambles, Hikes & Treks - Alps, Picos, Sierra Nevada, Peloponnese, Cappadocia, Atlas, Kilimanjaro, Himalayas, Tien Shan, Rockies, Sierra Madre, Andes.

Wildlife Safaris - Kenya, Tanzania, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Ghana, South Africa, Madagascar, India, Nepal, Borneo, Canada, Costa Rica, Galapagos.

River Journeys & Sea Treks - Dordogne, Aegean, Nile, Niger, Okavango, Ganges, Yangtze, East Indies, Amazon, Orinoco, Chilean Fjords, South Pacific.

Lost Cities & Ancient Worlds - Delphi, Luxor, Petra, Persepolis, Cartage, Timbuktu, Samarkand, Xian, Angkor, Chichen Itza, Tikal, Machu Picchu.

Choose from over 200 tours in 96 countries.

Tours from 8 days to 4 weeks.

Prices from under £400 to over £2000.

Call 01252 760 100 for

your free copy of our colour brochure

Explore Worldwide FIN, Aldershot GU1 1LQ

www.explore.co.uk Fully bonded ATOL 295

Railfair '99

In June 1999 the California State  
Railway Museum presents  
"Railfair". This impressive  
gathering of steam and steel will  
be one of the world's largest  
and most elaborate railroad  
celebrations. Join one of our  
special USA Rail Tours which  
includes this exciting event.

11 day tour from £945

Call for a brochure

01753 681999

Explore Tours ATOL/ABTA V983

Italy

Traditional furnishings,  
villas and apartments  
in Italy's ancient regions.

FREE COLOUR BROCHURE: NODC

08700 780 186 QUOTE: 151

VACANZE IN ITALIA

ATTO ATOL 295

Italy

Sardinia with Voyages Ile de

an island of stunning beauty and  
lovely scenery. Our magnificent

new brochure is available now.

08700 780 186 QUOTE: 151

VACANZE IN ITALIA

ATTO ATOL 295

Italy



THEATRE  
COUNTRYWIDE

**BILLINGHAM**  
**BILLINGHAM FORUM** Red Riding Hood. Keith Harris and Orville star. 9 & 10 Jan, 1.30pm & 6pm. £9, concs £7. Town Centre (01624-552663)

**BIRMINGHAM**  
**ALEXANDRA THEATRE** A Tale of Two Cities. Paul Nicholas stars in this new musical adaptation of the Charles Dickens novel. Mon-Sat, 9-11 Jan, 7pm. £7.25-£19. concs available. Broad Street (0121-643 1231)

**BIRMINGHAM REP** A Christmas Carol. Michael Bogdanov directs a new adaptation of Charles Dickens's Victorian tale of greed and redemption. 9 & 16 Jan, 2.30pm, 9-11 Jan, 7pm. £7.25-£19. concs available. Broad Street (0121-643 4455)

**THE DOOR - BIRMINGHAM REP STUDIOS** Fourteen Songs: Two Weddings and a Funeral. Stage version of a Hollywood blockbuster. 9 Jan, 7.45pm. £9, concs £7.

**HIPPODROME** Cinderella. Danny La Rue and Brian Conley stars as Baroness Voluptuous and Buttons. 9 Jan, 2.30pm, 9, 12-15 Jan, 7.45pm. 10 Jan, 7.15pm. 11 Jan, 1pm & 5.15pm. 12-14 Jan, 2pm, ends 20 Feb. £9.50-£12.50. Lanes available. Hurst Street (0121-622 7486)

**BLACKPOOL**  
**GRAND THEATRE** Aladdin. Magical family pantomime starring Wayne Sleep as the Slave of the Ring. 9 Jan, 7pm & 7.45pm. 10 Jan, 1pm & 5pm. £6-£13.50, concs available. Church Street (01253-290190)

**DUNDEE**  
**DUNDEE REPERTORY THEATRE** The Jungle Book. A charming adaptation of a jungle's tale about Mowgli and his jungle friends. 9 Jan, 2.30pm & 7.15pm. 10 Jan, 7pm. 11-15 Jan, 7pm. 16 Jan, 7pm. 17 Jan, 2pm. 18-19 Jan, 2pm, ends 17 Jan. £7.50-£12.50. concs available. Leven Street (01382-56000)

**ROYAL LYCEUM THEATRE** The Snow Queen. Stuart Palmer's charming adaptation of Anderson's fairytale. 9 Jan, 7pm. £4-£15, concs available.

**The Deep Blue Sea** Terence Rattigan's powerful play about the agony of misdirected desires. From 15 Jan. Mon-Sat, 7.45pm. ends 20 Feb. £7-£16, concs available. Euston Street (0131-248 4848)

## GLASGOW

**KING'S THEATRE** Sleeping Beauty. Elaine C Smith stars in this magical fairytale production. Mon-Sat, 7pm, mats 9 Jan, 2pm, 12-14 Jan, 1pm, ends 16 Jan. £7.50-£15, concs available. Bath St (0141-287 5511)

**PAVILION THEATRE** Pinocchio. The Kranzle and Jimmy Cricket deliver a magical pantomime treat. 9 Jan, 2pm, 9, 12-15, 7.30pm, 10 Jan, 6.30pm, 13 Jan, 1.30pm, ends 23 Jan. £6-£9.50, concs available. Forest Street (0161-833 9833)

**HULL**  
**HULL TRUCK THEATRE** Gold! Hull Truck's story of five college friends who re-unite in an attempt to recreate their student days. Mon-Sat, 8pm, ends 16 Jan. £5-£10. concs available. Spring Street (01482-323638)

**INVERNESS**  
**EDEN COURT THEATRE** Peter Pan Flyaway fun with siren from Gladiators and Titch McCleary. 9 Jan, 2.15pm & 6pm £50-£12.50, concs available. Bishops Road (01463-234234 cc 234274)

**WEST YORKSHIRE PLAYHOUSE: COURTYARD THEATRE** The Nutcracker. Hoffman's tale of the Snow Queen. 9 Jan, 10am, 11, 12, 14, 15 Jan, 1.30pm, ends 23 Jan. £5-£12.50.

**NOTTINGHAM**  
**NOTTINGHAM PLAYHOUSE** Jack and the Beanstalk. Kenneth Alun Hywel's retelling of the traditional tale of the beanstalk. 9, 12-14 Jan, 9pm, 11-15 Jan, 7pm, ends 23 Jan. £5-£15, concs available. Grey Street (01191-232 2061)

**WEST YORKSHIRE PLAYHOUSE: QUARRY THEATRE** Martin Guerre. Boublil and Schonberg's musical love story. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Tue & Thu-Sat 2pm, ends 13 Feb. £8-£24, concs £8-£13.50. Playhouse Square (0113-213 7700)

**THEATRE ROYAL** Dick Whittington. The Pied Piper of Hamelin starring Lesley Joseph, John Nettles, Jeffrey Holland and Hilary Minster. 9, 12-14 Jan, 2.30pm, 10am, 1.30pm & 5pm. £9-£11.95. concs available. George Street (0115-941 4919)

**LEICESTER**  
**HAYMARKET THEATRE** Singin' in the Rain. High water mark of American musical. Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, £7-£16. Sat 6 & Sat 2pm, continuing. £7-£19.50. Belgrave Street (0116-253 9797)

**LIVERPOOL**  
**EVERYMAN THEATRE** Jumppi! Jack Flash Rock'n'roll pantomime. 9 Jan, 2.30pm, 9, 11-15 Jan, 7.30pm, 13 Jan, 1.30pm, ends 30 Jan. £5-£11.95. Hope Street (0151-709 4776)

**OXFORD**  
**APOLLO THEATRE** Jesus Christ Superstar. Tim Rice and Lloyd Webber's acclaimed Biblical musical. 9 Jan, 3pm & 7.30pm. £7.50-£24.50, concs available.

**SNOW WHITE and the Seven Dwarfs** Pantomime. 9 Jan, 2.30pm, 10am & 1pm. £10-£12.50, concs available. George Street (01865-244544)

**PRESTON**  
**UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL LANCASHIRE** A Soldier's Song. Guy Mansfield performs his own adaptation of Ken Lukiwski's book about the Falklands conflict. 13 Jan, 7.30pm. £4, concs £3. (01772-893001)

**SCARBOROUGH**  
**STEPHEN JOSEPH THEATRE: MCCARTHY AUDITORIUM** Cheap And cheerful. A new musical revue written and directed by Alan Bennett. 9, 12-15 Jan, 7.45pm, ends 30 Jan. £9-£12.50, concs available. Westborough (01723-370541)

**STEPHEN JOSEPH THEATRE: THE ROUND** The Boy Who Fell into a Change. Starring Darren Hayes. 9 Jan, 2.30pm, 9, 12-15 Jan, 7.30pm, 13 Jan, 1.30pm, ends 30 Jan. £5-£11.95. Hope Street (01723-370541 cc 378863)

**ROYAL LYCEUM THEATRE** The Snow Queen. Stuart Palmer's charming adaptation of Anderson's fairytale. 9 Jan, 7pm. £4-£15, concs available.

**The Deep Blue Sea** Terence Rattigan's powerful play about the agony of misdirected desires. From 15 Jan. Mon-Sat, 7.45pm. ends 20 Feb. £7-£16, concs available. Euston Street (0131-248 4848)

**EDINBURGH**  
**KING'S THEATRE** The Adventures of Aladdin. The magical experience of pantomime for all the family starring David Rintoul, Allan Stewart and Gerard Kelly. 9, 13, 16 Jan, 2pm, 9, 12-16 Jan, 7pm, 10 & 17 Jan, 1pm & 5pm, ends 17 Jan. £7.50-£12.50, concs available. Leven Street (0131-253 6000)

**THEATRE ROYAL** Cinderella. Jim Davidson directs a family panto for a change, starring Darren Hayes. 9 Jan, 2.30pm, 9, 12-15 Jan, 7.30pm, 10 & 17 Jan, 1pm & 5pm, ends 20 Feb. £7-£16, concs available. Royal Lyceum (0131-248 4848)

**THEATRE ROYAL** Cinderella. Jim Davidson directs a family panto for a change, starring Darren Hayes. 9 Jan, 2.30pm, 9, 12-15 Jan, 7.30pm, 10 & 17 Jan, 1pm & 5pm, ends 20 Feb. £7-£16, concs available. Royal Lyceum (0131-248 4848)

**THEATRE ROYAL** Cinderella. Jim Davidson directs a family panto for a change, starring Darren Hayes. 9 Jan, 2.30pm, 9, 12-15 Jan, 7.30pm, 10 & 17 Jan, 1pm & 5pm, ends 20 Feb. £7-£16, concs available. Royal Lyceum (0131-248 4848)

**THEATRE ROYAL** Cinderella. Jim Davidson directs a family panto for a change, starring Darren Hayes. 9 Jan, 2.30pm, 9, 12-15 Jan, 7.30pm, 10 & 17 Jan, 1pm & 5pm, ends 20 Feb. £7-£16, concs available. Royal Lyceum (0131-248 4848)

**THEATRE ROYAL** Cinderella. Jim Davidson directs a family panto for a change, starring Darren Hayes. 9 Jan, 2.30pm, 9, 12-15 Jan, 7.30pm, 10 & 17 Jan, 1pm & 5pm, ends 20 Feb. £7-£16, concs available. Royal Lyceum (0131-248 4848)

**THEATRE ROYAL** Cinderella. Jim Davidson directs a family panto for a change, starring Darren Hayes. 9 Jan, 2.30pm, 9, 12-15 Jan, 7.30pm, 10 & 17 Jan, 1pm & 5pm, ends 20 Feb. £7-£16, concs available. Royal Lyceum (0131-248 4848)

**THEATRE ROYAL** Cinderella. Jim Davidson directs a family panto for a change, starring Darren Hayes. 9 Jan, 2.30pm, 9, 12-15 Jan, 7.30pm, 10 & 17 Jan, 1pm & 5pm, ends 20 Feb. £7-£16, concs available. Royal Lyceum (0131-248 4848)

**THEATRE ROYAL** Cinderella. Jim Davidson directs a family panto for a change, starring Darren Hayes. 9 Jan, 2.30pm, 9, 12-15 Jan, 7.30pm, 10 & 17 Jan, 1pm & 5pm, ends 20 Feb. £7-£16, concs available. Royal Lyceum (0131-248 4848)

**THEATRE ROYAL** Cinderella. Jim Davidson directs a family panto for a change, starring Darren Hayes. 9 Jan, 2.30pm, 9, 12-15 Jan, 7.30pm, 10 & 17 Jan, 1pm & 5pm, ends 20 Feb. £7-£16, concs available. Royal Lyceum (0131-248 4848)

**THEATRE ROYAL** Cinderella. Jim Davidson directs a family panto for a change, starring Darren Hayes. 9 Jan, 2.30pm, 9, 12-15 Jan, 7.30pm, 10 & 17 Jan, 1pm & 5pm, ends 20 Feb. £7-£16, concs available. Royal Lyceum (0131-248 4848)

**THEATRE ROYAL** Cinderella. Jim Davidson directs a family panto for a change, starring Darren Hayes. 9 Jan, 2.30pm, 9, 12-15 Jan, 7.30pm, 10 & 17 Jan, 1pm & 5pm, ends 20 Feb. £7-£16, concs available. Royal Lyceum (0131-248 4848)

**THEATRE ROYAL** Cinderella. Jim Davidson directs a family panto for a change, starring Darren Hayes. 9 Jan, 2.30pm, 9, 12-15 Jan, 7.30pm, 10 & 17 Jan, 1pm & 5pm, ends 20 Feb. £7-£16, concs available. Royal Lyceum (0131-248 4848)

**THEATRE ROYAL** Cinderella. Jim Davidson directs a family panto for a change, starring Darren Hayes. 9 Jan, 2.30pm, 9, 12-15 Jan, 7.30pm, 10 & 17 Jan, 1pm & 5pm, ends 20 Feb. £7-£16, concs available. Royal Lyceum (0131-248 4848)

**THEATRE ROYAL** Cinderella. Jim Davidson directs a family panto for a change, starring Darren Hayes. 9 Jan, 2.30pm, 9, 12-15 Jan, 7.30pm, 10 & 17 Jan, 1pm & 5pm, ends 20 Feb. £7-£16, concs available. Royal Lyceum (0131-248 4848)

**THEATRE ROYAL** Cinderella. Jim Davidson directs a family panto for a change, starring Darren Hayes. 9 Jan, 2.30pm, 9, 12-15 Jan, 7.30pm, 10 & 17 Jan, 1pm & 5pm, ends 20 Feb. £7-£16, concs available. Royal Lyceum (0131-248 4848)

**THEATRE ROYAL** Cinderella. Jim Davidson directs a family panto for a change, starring Darren Hayes. 9 Jan, 2.30pm, 9, 12-15 Jan, 7.30pm, 10 & 17 Jan, 1pm & 5pm, ends 20 Feb. £7-£16, concs available. Royal Lyceum (0131-248 4848)

**THEATRE ROYAL** Cinderella. Jim Davidson directs a family panto for a change, starring Darren Hayes. 9 Jan, 2.30pm, 9, 12-15 Jan, 7.30pm, 10 & 17 Jan, 1pm & 5pm, ends 20 Feb. £7-£16, concs available. Royal Lyceum (0131-248 4848)

**THEATRE ROYAL** Cinderella. Jim Davidson directs a family panto for a change, starring Darren Hayes. 9 Jan, 2.30pm, 9, 12-15 Jan, 7.30pm, 10 & 17 Jan, 1pm & 5pm, ends 20 Feb. £7-£16, concs available. Royal Lyceum (0131-248 4848)

**THEATRE ROYAL** Cinderella. Jim Davidson directs a family panto for a change, starring Darren Hayes. 9 Jan, 2.30pm, 9, 12-15 Jan, 7.30pm, 10 & 17 Jan, 1pm & 5pm, ends 20 Feb. £7-£16, concs available. Royal Lyceum (0131-248 4848)

**THEATRE ROYAL** Cinderella. Jim Davidson directs a family panto for a change, starring Darren Hayes. 9 Jan, 2.30pm, 9, 12-15 Jan, 7.30pm, 10 & 17 Jan, 1pm & 5pm, ends 20 Feb. £7-£16, concs available. Royal Lyceum (0131-248 4848)

**THEATRE ROYAL** Cinderella. Jim Davidson directs a family panto for a change, starring Darren Hayes. 9 Jan, 2.30pm, 9, 12-15 Jan, 7.30pm, 10 & 17 Jan, 1pm & 5pm, ends 20 Feb. £7-£16, concs available. Royal Lyceum (0131-248 4848)

**THEATRE ROYAL** Cinderella. Jim Davidson directs a family panto for a change, starring Darren Hayes. 9 Jan, 2.30pm, 9, 12-15 Jan, 7.30pm, 10 & 17 Jan, 1pm & 5pm, ends 20 Feb. £7-£16, concs available. Royal Lyceum (0131-248 4848)

**THEATRE ROYAL** Cinderella. Jim Davidson directs a family panto for a change, starring Darren Hayes. 9 Jan, 2.30pm, 9, 12-15 Jan, 7.30pm, 10 & 17 Jan, 1pm & 5pm, ends 20 Feb. £7-£16, concs available. Royal Lyceum (0131-248 4848)

**THEATRE ROYAL** Cinderella. Jim Davidson directs a family panto for a change, starring Darren Hayes. 9 Jan, 2.30pm, 9, 12-15 Jan, 7.30pm, 10 & 17 Jan, 1pm & 5pm, ends 20 Feb. £7-£16, concs available. Royal Lyceum (0131-248 4848)

**THEATRE ROYAL** Cinderella. Jim Davidson directs a family panto for a change, starring Darren Hayes. 9 Jan, 2.30pm, 9, 12-15 Jan, 7.30pm, 10 & 17 Jan, 1pm & 5pm, ends 20 Feb. £7-£16, concs available. Royal Lyceum (0131-248 4848)

**THEATRE ROYAL** Cinderella. Jim Davidson directs a family panto for a change, starring Darren Hayes. 9 Jan, 2.30pm, 9, 12-15 Jan, 7.30pm, 10 & 17 Jan, 1pm & 5pm, ends 20 Feb. £7-£16, concs available. Royal Lyceum (0131-248 4848)

**THEATRE ROYAL** Cinderella. Jim Davidson directs a family panto for a change, starring Darren Hayes. 9 Jan, 2.30pm, 9, 12-15 Jan, 7.30pm, 10 & 17 Jan, 1pm & 5pm, ends 20 Feb. £7-£16, concs available. Royal Lyceum (0131-248 4848)

**THEATRE ROYAL** Cinderella. Jim Davidson directs a family panto for a change, starring Darren Hayes. 9 Jan, 2.30pm, 9, 12-15 Jan, 7.30pm, 10 & 17 Jan, 1pm & 5pm, ends 20 Feb. £7-£16, concs available. Royal Lyceum (0131-248 4848)

**THEATRE ROYAL** Cinderella. Jim Davidson directs a family panto for a change, starring Darren Hayes. 9 Jan,

## THURSDAY TELEVISION

BBC1

BBC2

ITV Granada

Channel 4

Channel 5

ITV/Regions

**6.00 Business Breakfast** (7068), 7.00 News (6337), 9.00 *The Vanessa Show* (S)(T) (604227), 10.55 News (T) (795573), 11.00 *Real Rooms* (S) (792557), 11.25 *Can't Cook, Won't Cook* (S)(T) (7895337), 11.55 News (T) (111733), 12.00 *Call My Bluff* (S) (21065), 12.30 *Battersea Dogs' Home* (S)(T) (69578), 1.00 News (T) (62482), 1.30 *Regional News* (S)(T) (6860937), 1.40 *Neighbours* (S)(T) (6535625), 2.05 *Ironside* (R) (7672627), 2.55 *Going for a Song* (S) (6578282), 3.20 *The Weather Show* (S)(T) (299733).

**3.22 Children's BBC: Playday** (422702), 3.45 *The Littlest Pet Shop* (S) (60405), 3.55 *Pocket Dragon Adventures* (S)(T) (907026), 4.05 *Rugrats* (T) (6237355), 4.20 *Horrible Farm Twins* (T) (695849), 4.35 *Short Change* (S)(T) (631269), 5.00 *Newsround* (S)(T) (678988), 5.10 *See How They Run* (S)(T) (650153).

**5.35 Neighbours** (S)(T) (282578).

**6.00 News; Weather** (T) (511).

**6.30 Regional News** (T) (191).

**7.00 Watchdog** (S)(T) (288).

**7.30 EastEnders** (S)(T) (375).

**8.00 Vets in Practice** (S)(T) (7608).

**8.30 Fat Free.** More about people's battles to get rid of extra pounds (S)(T) (5443).

**9.00 News; Weather** (T) (7207).

**9.30 Film: Shine** (1996). Geoffrey Rush is outstanding as pianist David Helfgott, the Australian child prodigy. Noah Taylor plays the young Helfgott, Armin Mueller-Stahl plays his forbidding father (S)(T) (831443).

**11.45 Question Time** (S)(T) (765240), 12.45 *Faces of Islam* (S)(T) (667098).

**12.35 Film: Man on Fire** (1987). Scott Glenn is hired to babysit a young kidnap target (S) (445271).

**2.05 News 24** (7438252), 5.40 *Faces of Islam* (R)(S)(T) (3753592). To 6am.

**6.35 The Passionate Statistician** (T) (426086), 7.00 *Open a Door* (R) (229713), 7.05 *Teletubbies* (S) (291844), 7.20 *Yogi Treasure Hunt* (R) (623472), 7.25 *Blue Peter* (S)(T) (221036), 8.45 *Taz-Mania* (654397), 8.40 *Pols Dot Shorts* (S)(T) (614262), 8.50 *Fiddly Foodie* (Bird) (R)(S) (613263), 9.00 *Job Bank* (S) (708262), 9.40 *Belief File* (5488627), 9.30 *Watch* (S) (625155), 9.45 *Come Outside* (R)(S) (249714), 10.00 *Teletoobles* (R)(S) (23065), 10.30 *Storytime* (S) (581595), 10.45 *The Experiment* (S) (617323), 11.05 *Space Ark* (S) (666443), 11.45 *2 Zs* (S) (146597), 11.55 *Granada* (S)(T) (650267), 12.00 *Job Bank* (S)(T) (6335578), 12.30 *English File* (S)(T) (497426), 12.30 *Working Lunch* (T) (60282), 1.00 *The Arts and Crafts Hour* (S) (2495424), 2.40 *Sporting Greats* (S) (221682), 2.40 *News* (T) (695905), 2.45 *Westminster* (S)(T) (2574694), 3.25 *News* (2995546), 3.30 *Hot Shots* (R)(S)(T) (6436849).

**3.40 Film: Song of Norway** (1970). Torval Mjaastad plays Edvard Grieg in this biopic (6574037).

**6.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation.** Sci-fi drama series (R)(S)(T) (171240).

**6.45 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine.** Sci-fi drama series (S)(T) (59997).

**7.30 First Sight.** Current affairs (317).

**8.00 The Travel Show** (S)(T) (5978).

**8.30 Jeremy Clarkson's Extreme Machines** (R)(S)(T) (7085).

**9.00 Meet the Ancestors.** An excavation team find a Roman coffin (S)(T) (5849).

**9.30 CHOICE: Fat Files - a Horizon Trilogy.** See *Choice*, below (S)(T) (668646).

**10.20 Meetings with Remarkable Trees** (S) (768563).

**10.30 Newsnight.** (T) (97714), 11.45 *Late Review* (S) (776207), 12.00 *Despatch Box* (S) (9757), 12.30 *Learning Zone* (4685134). To 6.35am.

**6.00 Ganty** (579162), 8.25 *Trisha* (S)(T) (3555733), 10.30 *This Morning* (T) (6525220), 12.20 *Granada News* (T) (6925559), 12.30 *News* (T) (74646), 1.00 *Home and Away* (S)(T) (6252809), 1.25 *Jerry Springer Show* (S) (645566), 2.45 *Emmerdale* (R)(S)(T) (6042568), 2.45 *Dale's Supermarket Sweep* (S)(T) (637808), 3.35 *News* (T) (299328), 3.30 *Granada* (T) (2683601).

**3.25 Children's ITV: Mop-top's Shop** (T) (2973424), 3.35 *The Adventures of Dawdie* (S) (8422648), 3.45 *The Sylvester and Tweety Mysteries* (T) (6402282), 4.00 *Lavender Castle* (T) (6923153), 4.45 *Horrible Farm* (S) (7367082), 4.45 *The Arts and Crafts Hour* (S) (2495424), 5.40 *Sporting Greats* (S) (221682), 5.40 *News* (T) (695905), 5.45 *Westminster* (S)(T) (2574694), 6.25 *News* (2995546), 6.30 *Hot Shots* (R)(S)(T) (6436849).

**3.40 Film: Way of a Gaucho** (1952). Rony Colbun plods around the Pampas in this colourful caper (6153288).

**3.30 Hampton Court Palace** (T) (337), 4.00 *Fifteen to One* (S)(T) (172), 4.30 *Countdown* (S)(T) (625609), 4.45 *Ricki Lake* (S)(T) (4736086).

**5.30 Pet Rescue** (S)(T) (506).

**6.00 Dishes.** Game show (T) (849).

**6.30 Hollyoaks** (S)(T) (801).

**7.00 News; Weather** (S)(T) (737240).

**7.50 Gilbert and Sullivan: the Very Models.** Animation (639288).

**8.00 Norland Nannies.** Behind-the-scenes peep at a school for nannies (3646).

**8.30 Secret Lives.** A profile of Princess Margaret (R)(S)(T) (263).

**9.00 Dispatches.** Current affairs (T) (801).

**10.00 Rising Damp** (R)(T) (48733).

**10.30 Whose Line Is It Anyway?** Improvisational game show (4453).

**11.00 Ali McBeal** (R)(S)(T) (68049), 11.55 *Oz* (25555), 12.55 *Vids* (591573), 1.25 *Feather Tale* (4883370).

**1.35 Film: Stan and George's New Life** (1990). Quirky Australian comedy, with Paul Chubb (727683).

**3.35 Film: Holiday on the River Yarra.** Harrowing African drama (695467).

**5.45 Right to Reply** (R) (24573), 5.45 *The Pink Panther* (7822467), 5.50 *Animal Alphabet* (7812090), 5.55 *Sesame Street* (675592), 6.00 *News* (675153). To 6am.

**7.00 The Big Breakfast** (S) (52085), 9.00 *Schools* (681375), 11.30 *Powerhouse* (182), 12.20 *Sesame Street* (47004), 12.30 *The Ocean World of John Stoneman* (72289), 1.00 *Pet Rescue* (R)(S)(T) (1062793), 1.30 *The Ocean World of John Stoneman* (5531627).

**1.55 Film: Way of a Gaucho** (1952). Rony Colbun plods around the Pampas in this colourful caper (6153288).

**3.30 Hampton Court Palace** (T) (337), 4.00 *Fifteen to One* (S)(T) (172), 4.30 *Countdown* (S)(T) (625609), 4.45 *Ricki Lake* (S)(T) (4736086).

**5.30 Pet Rescue** (S)(T) (506).

**6.00 Dishes.** Game show (T) (849).

**6.30 Hollyoaks** (S)(T) (801).

**7.00 News; Weather** (S)(T) (737240).

**7.50 Gilbert and Sullivan: the Very Models.** Animation (639288).

**8.00 Norland Nannies.** Behind-the-scenes peep at a school for nannies (3646).

**8.30 Secret Lives.** A profile of Princess Margaret (R)(S)(T) (263).

**9.00 Dispatches.** Current affairs (T) (801).

**10.00 Rising Damp** (R)(T) (48733).

**10.30 Whose Line Is It Anyway?** Improvisational game show (4453).

**11.00 Ali McBeal** (R)(S)(T) (68049), 11.55 *Oz* (25555), 12.55 *Vids* (591573), 1.25 *Feather Tale* (4883370).

**1.35 Film: Stan and George's New Life** (1990). Quirky Australian comedy, with Paul Chubb (727683).

**3.35 Film: Holiday on the River Yarra.** Harrowing African drama (695467).

**5.45 Right to Reply** (R) (24573), 5.45 *The Pink Panther* (7822467), 5.50 *Animal Alphabet* (7812090), 5.55 *Sesame Street* (675592), 6.00 *News* (675153). To 6am.

**6.00 5 News** (S) (7804917), 7.00 *WideWorld* (R)(S)(T) (992220), 7.30 *Milkshake* (S) (695458), 7.35 *Wimble's House* (R) (6923733), 8.00 *Havakooz* (R)(S)(T) (6923733), 8.00 *Anglia News* (6813424), 8.30 *Dappledown Farm* (R)(S)(T) (1062793), 9.00 *Animal House* (R) (2676207), 9.25 *Postcards* (458462), 9.30 *Lezza Beach* (S)(T) (2020574), 10.00 *Lezza Beach* (S)(T) (2020574), 10.30 *Lezza Beach* (S)(T) (2020574), 11.00 *Surfer News* (6950444), 12.00 *News at Noon* (S)(T) (606515), 12.30 *Family Affairs* (S)(T) (606515), 1.00 *The Bold and the Beautiful* (S)(T) (696585), 1.30 *The Roseanne Show* (S) (693233), 2.00 *Good Afternoon* (S)(T) (6945157).

**1.30 Film: Greased Lightning** (1977). Motor racing drama with Richard Pryor, about the first black stock-car racer ever to win a Grand National race (653566).

**5.20 Sunset Beach** (S)(T) (6084795).

**6.00 100 Per Cent** (S) (5113820).

**6.30 Family Affairs** (S)(T) (510472).

**7.00 5 News** (S) (6263527).

**7.30 Champions of the Wild.** A look at efforts to save the endangered sea turtle (S)(T) (5100356).

**8.00 The Pepsi Chart.** Dr Fox presents the latest sounds (S) (6272376).

**8.30 Family Confidential.** A 14-year-old boy is about to start a new school term. But as well as studying, he has to deal with his 10-month-old son (6251822).

**9.00 Film: A Strange Affair** (1995). Judith Light leaves her cheating husband. He survives a stroke and then she meets Mr Right. True-life teledramas with William Russ (S)(T) (1221069).

**10.50 Sex and Shopping.** The porn series looks at lesbian scenes (S) (320240).

**11.20 The Jack Doherty Show** (S) (876085), 12.00 *Live and Dangerous* (S) (5156563), 12.40 *Live and Dangerous* (S) (7967485), 12.45 *Prisoner: Cell Block H* (R)(S)(T) (3235592), 5.30 *100 Per Cent* (S) (65210437), 6.00 *Sex and Shopping*

## BBC1

**6.00 Business Breakfast** (20378). 7.00 News (21228). 8.00 Kirby (8609653). 9.45 The Vanessa Show (S) (6145435). 10.55 News (701323). 11.00 Real Rooms (S) (702705). 11.25 Can Cook, Won't Cook (S) (7024823). 11.55 News (1257589). 12.00 Call My Bluff (86960). 12.30 Battersea Dogs' Home (84673). 1.00 News (40034). 1.30 Regional News (8673893). 1.40 Neighbours (8525893). 2.05 Inside (S) (770123). 2.55 Going for a Song (Song 8603638). 3.20 The Weather Show (S) (2034589).

**3.25 Children's BBC: Playdays** (H)(S) (771852). 3.45 The Enchanted Lands (R)(S) (910351). 3.55 Hubub (S)(T) (857522). 4.30 Crimewatch to the Movies (S)(T) (203723). 4.35 The Really Wild Show (S)(T) (760754). 5.00 Newsround (S)(T) (5507454). 5.30 See How They Run (S)(T) (6647909).

**5.35 Neighbours.** Lance convinces B&I to place a bet (S)(T) (44022).

**6.00 News; Weather** (T) (251).

**6.30 Regional News** (T) (231).

**7.00 Holiday.** Jill Dando lists the busy resort of Sousse in Tunisia (S)(T) (4922).

**7.30 Eastenders.** Emotions in the Square run high and threaten to disrupt Tilly's funeral (S)(T) (93473).

**8.30 CHOICE** Holly City. New medical drama series. See Choice, below (S)(T) (457386).

**9.00 News; Regional News** (T) (8397).

**9.30 Paddington Green.** Trade's still slow for wig-men Harry (S)(T) (30093).

**10.00 FILM Patriot Games** (992). Harrison Ford stars as the CIA's Jack Ryan, making enemies of his own when he spots a terrorist attack in London (T) (399541).

**11.55 FILM Silent Motive** (1992). Patricia Wentworth as a stalked author in the smart late-thriller (S)(T) (554980).

**12.55 BBC News 24** (3124771). To 6am.

## BBC2

**6.35 Wood, Brass and Baboon Bones** (8622562). 7.00 The Little Polar Bear (R) (9643671). 7.05 Teletubbies (2070928). 7.30 Yogi's Treasure Hunt (R) (3919232). 7.55 The Really Wild Show (S)(T) (2463894). 8.25 Tax-Mania (S) (759145). 8.40 Polka Dot Shorts (824345). 8.50 Brum (R) (248615). 9.00 Environment (716880). 9.30 What? Where? When? Why? (S) (7022223). 9.25 The Art (S) (6577042). 10.00 Words and Pictures (S) (2721042). 10.30 Teletubbies (S) (8655). 10.45 Cats Eyes (S) (836484). 11.00 Around Scotland (S) (656690). 11.20 The Geography Programme (S)(T) (640771). 11.40 Science in Action (S) (2242313). 12.00 Spanish Magazine (S) (408361). 12.15 Hello aus Berlin (S) (835531). 12.30 Working Lunch (S) (2428752). 12.50 Sporting Greats (S) (2223348). 13.00 News (T) (8662130). 13.30 The Weather Show (S) (2094961).

**3.25 Children's BBC: Playdays** (719150). 3.45 Little Monsters (S) (818996). 3.50 ChuckleVision (S)(T) (6223023). 4.30 See It Saw (S) (693249). 4.35 The Wild House (1664597). 5.00 Newsround (T) (5401226). 5.10 Blue Peter (T) (6534481).

**5.35 Neighbours** (S)(T) (703435).

**6.00 News; Weather** (T) (481).

**6.30 Regional News** (T) (961).

**7.00 Wildlife on One** (R)(S) (T) (9058).

**7.30 Dream House** (S)(T) (145).

**8.00 Changing Rooms** (S)(T) (8706).

**8.30 Battersea Dogs' Home** (T) (972130).

**9.00 The National Lottery: Amazing Luck Stories** (S)(T) (947058).

**9.30 News; Weather** (T) (507).

**9.30 The X-Files.** Mulder and Scully recount their versions of events leading up to the death of a teenager (S)(T) (822334).

**10.15 Don't Call Us.** The history of the talent show (S)(T) (509023).

**10.50 Confessions of the Cheshire Wives.** Profiles of five women who are part of the wealthy Cheshire set (708953).

**11.40 FILM In the Deep Woods** (992). Thinely plotted suspense mystery with Rosanna Arquette (S)(T) (785855).

**11.55 News 24** (59886714). To 6am.

## TUESDAY TELEVISION

## ITV Granada

**6.00 GMTV** (6837218). 9.25 Trisha (S)(T) (3801589). 10.30 The Morning (T) (65397678). 12.20 Granada News and Weather (T) (6010105). 12.30 News; Weather (T) (49328). 1.00 Home and Away (S)(T) (2584665). 1.25 The Jerry Springer Show (S)(T) (559146). 2.10 Coronation Street (R)(S) (153812). 2.45 Dale's Supermarket Sweep (S)(T) (506522). 3.15 News (T) (728134). 3.20 Granada News (T) (209657).

**3.25 Children's ITV:** Mop-top's Shop (T) (2002880). 3.35 Rosie and Jim (S) (8542454). 3.50 The Wombles (S) (9195522). 4.00 Cow and Chicken (T) (2344725). 12.30 English Express (S) (4003723). 12.30 Working Lunch (4102). 1.00 Cake Dots (R)(S) (7376538). 1.30 The Arts and Crafts Show (S) (2524980). 2.10 Sporting Greats (2225276). 2.40 News (808541). 2.45 Westminster (S) (9921070). 3.25 News (202102). 3.30 Birds with Soper (R)(S) (8147857).

**3.50 FILM Till the Clouds Roll By** (1946). Robert Walker stars as songwriter Jerome Kern (28829473).

**6.00 Fresh Prince of Bel Air** (257638).

**6.25 Heartbreak High** (S)(T) (664893).

**7.30 The O Zone** (S)(T) (68102).

**7.30 From the Edge** (S)(T) (857).

**8.00 University Challenge** (S)(T) (1218).

**8.30 Rick Stein's Seafood Odyssey.** Stein searches for the "best fish in the world" - turbot (S)(T) (8025).

**9.00 Morecambe and Wise** (T) (350183).

**9.25 Great Railway Journeys.** Michael Portillo explores his complicated roots in a trek across the railway networks of Spain (S)(T) (977386).

**10.20 The Whitbread Announcement.** (S)(T) (933367). 10.30 Newsnight (T) (653822). 11.35 Trial by Jury (568631). 12.00 Despatch Box (S) (77329). 12.30 Learning Zone (4672469). To 6.35am.

## Channel 4

**7.00 The Big Breakfast** (S) (30657). 9.00 Schools (250229). 11.30 Powerhouse (6522). 12.00 Sesame Street (89400). 12.30 Switched (R) (28270). 1.00 Pet Rescue (R)(S) (37474). 1.30 Roots to Success (6674918).

**1.45 FILM Until They Sail** (1957). Slick courtroom drama with Joan Fontaine and Paul Newman (77560386).

**3.30 The Hampton Court Palace** (305). 4.00 Fifteen to One (R)(S) (812). 4.30 Countdown (S) (16). 5.00 Ricki Lake (S) (5742). 5.30 Pet Rescue (S) (676).

**6.00 King of the Hill** (R)(S) (T) (589).

**6.30 Home Improvement** (T) (541).

**7.00 News; Weather** (S)(T) (352831).

**7.55 Gilbert and Sullivan: the Very Models.** Animation (243015).

**8.00 Brookside.** Lindsey discovers Peter's true whereabouts (S)(T) (6386).

**8.30 Classic Aircraft.** Stories of old aircraft surviving in new roles and of the pilots who keep them flying (T) (5893).

**9.00 Rats.** Award-winning film that reveals a unique perspective of life in New York by exploring the relationship between the two most successful mammals found in the city - man and rat (S)(T) (49393).

**10.00 Father Ted** (R)(S) (T) (32575). 10.30 Bob and Margaret (11473).

**11.00 Short Stories** (802).

**11.30 Dope Sheet** (2999). 12.00 War Story (877706). 12.30 Moon Jelly House of Fashion (88-8889). 12.40 His Mother's Voice (675395). 12.45 A is for Autism (92949). 12.50 Going Equipped (433495). 12.55 Some Protection (927077). 1.05 Pro and Con (926819). 1.15 Glassy Ocean (1664435).

**1.40 FILM Ulysses** (1967). Adaptation of James Joyce's epic novel of Dublin life starring Barbara Jefford (7593848). To 6am.

**5.55 Sesame Street** (489438). To 7am.

## Channel 5

**6.00 5 News** (733473). 7.00 WideWorld (903676). 7.30 Milkshake (1650539). 7.35 Wimble House (9769539). 8.00 Hawkezzoo (1122860). 8.30 Dappledown Farm (1191251). 9.00 Weather Front (1116531). 9.30 Oprah (5551725). 10.20 Surfer Beach (2159473). 11.30 Leezza (2046299). 12.00 5 News (9978056). 1.00 Bed and the Beautiful (9037947). 1.30 The Roseanne Show (997367). 2.00 100 Per Cent Gold (3393367). 2.30 Good Afternoon (5403031).

**3.30 FILM The Lies Boys Tell** (1994). Aging, aged Kirk Douglas takes his estranged son on a journey home in this tele drama (T) (9664522).

**5.20 Sunset Beach** (S)(T) (6113251).

**6.00 100 Per Cent** (S) (5259676).

**6.30 Family Affairs** (S)(T) (5240928).

**7.00 5 News** (S)(T) (6392163).

**7.30 Champions of the Wild.** A look at the work of the Santa Rosa National Park in Costa Rica (S)(T) (2393812).

**8.00 Perfect Babies.** Mark Easton starts a new three-part series on how parents are being offered the chance to design the genetic make-up of their children and the implications this has for the future of mankind (S)(T) (5605080).

**9.00 FILM Bat 21** (1988). US airforce pilot Gene Hackman lands deep behind enemy lines after ejecting from his plane over Vietnam. His only guide (via radio contact) is spotted pilot Danny Glover. A tense drama which avoids facile heroics. (S)(T) (567367).

**11.00 Two.** Thriller. Gus is now penniless and suspected of killing his wife. Michael Easton stars (S)(T) (210163).

**11.55 The Jack Doherty Show** (S) (1722621). 12.15 Live and Dangerous (S) (506077). 1.45 Live and Dangerous (continued) (S) (4931593). 3.45 Asian Football Show (S) (150677). 4.40 Prisoner. Cell Block H (3065345). 5.30 100 Per Cent (R)(S) (2180233). To 6am.

## ITV/Regions

**Anglia** As Granada starts 12.30 Angie News (807207). 1.00 Local News (807208). 1.30 Local News (2102657). 2.00 Shire (205473). 2.30 Local News (2102657). 3.00 Shire (205473). 3.30 Local News (2102657). 4.00 Shire (205473). 4.30 Local News (2102657). 5.00 Shire (205473). 5.30 Local News (2102657). 6.00 Shire (205473). 6.30 Local News (2102657). 7.00 Shire (205473). 7.30 Local News (2102657). 8.00 Shire (205473). 8.30 Local News (2102657). 9.00 Shire (205473). 9.30 Local News (2102657). 10.00 Shire (205473). 10.30 Local News (2102657). 11.00 Shire (205473). 11.30 Local News (2102657). 12.00 Shire (205473). 12.30 Local News (2102657). 13.00 Shire (205473). 13.30 Local News (2102657). 14.00 Shire (205473). 14.30 Local News (2102657). 15.00 Shire (205473). 15.30 Local News (2102657). 16.00 Shire (205473). 16.30 Local News (2102657). 17.00 Shire (205473). 17.30 Local News (2102657). 18.00 Shire (205473). 18.30 Local News (2102657). 19.00 Shire (205473). 19.30 Local News (2102657). 20.00 Shire (205473). 20.30 Local News (2102657). 21.00 Shire (205473). 21.30 Local News (2102657). 22.00 Shire (205473). 22.30 Local News (2102657). 23.00 Shire (205473). 23.30 Local News (2102657). 24.00 Shire (205473). 24.30 Local News (2102657). 25.00 Shire (205473). 25.30 Local News (2102657). 26.00 Shire (205473). 26.30 Local News (2102657). 27.00 Shire (205473). 27.30 Local News (2102657). 28.00 Shire (205473). 28.30 Local News (2102657). 29.00 Shire (205473). 29.30 Local News (2102657). 30.00 Shire (205473). 30.30 Local News (2102657). 31.00 Shire (205473). 31.30 Local News (2102657). 32.00 Shire (205473). 32.30 Local News (2102657). 33.00 Shire (205473). 33.30 Local News (2102657). 34.00 Shire (205473). 34.30 Local News (2102657). 35.00 Shire (205473). 35.30 Local News (2102657). 36.00 Shire (205473). 36.30 Local News (2102657). 37.00 Shire (205473). 37.30 Local News (2102657). 38.00 Shire (205473). 38.30 Local News (2102657). 39.00 Shire (205473). 39.30 Local News (2102657). 40.00 Shire (205473). 40.30 Local News (2102657). 41.00 Shire (205473). 41.30 Local News (2102657). 42.00 Shire (205473). 42.30 Local News (2102657). 43.00 Shire (205473). 43.30 Local News (2102657). 44.00 Shire (205473). 44.30 Local News (2102657). 45.00 Shire (205473). 45.30 Local News (2102657). 46.00 Shire (205473). 46.30 Local News (2102657). 47.00 Shire (205473). 47.30 Local News (2102657). 48.00 Shire (205473). 48.30 Local News (2102657). 49.00 Shire (205473). 49.30 Local News (2102657). 50.00 Shire (205473). 50.30 Local News (2102657). 51.00 Shire (205473). 51.30 Local News (2102657). 52.00 Shire (205473). 52.30 Local News (2102657). 53.00 Shire (205473). 53.30 Local News (2102657). 54.00 Shire (205473). 54.30 Local News (2102657). 55.00 Shire (205473). 55.30 Local News (2102657). 56.00 Shire (205473). 56.30 Local News (2102657). 57.00 Shire (205473). 57.30 Local News (2102657). 58.00 Shire (205473). 58.30 Local News (2102657). 59.00 Shire (205473). 59.30 Local News (2102657). 60.00 Shire (205473). 60.30 Local News (2102657). 61.00 Shire (205473). 61.30 Local News (2102657). 62.00 Shire (205473). 62.30 Local News (2102657). 63.00 Shire (205473). 63.30 Local News (2102657). 64.00 Shire (205473). 64.30 Local News (2102657). 65.00 Shire (205473). 65.30 Local News (2102657). 66.00 Shire (205473). 66.30 Local News (2102657). 67.00 Shire (205473). 67.30 Local News (2102657). 68.00 Shire (205473). 68.30 Local News (2102657). 69.00 Shire (205473). 69.30 Local News (2102657). 70.00 Shire (205473). 70.30 Local News (2102657). 71.00 Shire (205473). 71.30 Local News (2102657). 72.00 Shire (205473). 72.30 Local News (2102657). 73.00 Shire (205473). 73.30 Local News (2102657). 74.00 Shire (205473). 74.30 Local News (2102657). 75.00 Shire (205473). 75.30 Local News (2102657). 76.00 Shire (205473). 76.30 Local News (2102657). 77.00 Shire (205473). 77.30 Local News (2102657). 78.00 Shire (205473). 78.30 Local News (2102657). 79.00 Shire (205473). 79.30 Local News (2102657). 80.00 Shire (205473). 80.30 Local News (2102657). 81.00 Shire (205473). 81.30 Local News (2102657). 82.00 Shire (205473). 82.30 Local News (2102657). 83.00 Shire (205473). 83.30 Local News (2102657). 84.00 Shire (205473). 84.30 Local News (

## SUNDAY TELEVISION

BBC1

BBC2

ITV Granada

Channel 4

Channel 5

ITV/Regions

**6.55** *The Munsters* (T) (7892300). 7.20 Match of the Day (S) (T) (345132). 8.30 Breakfast with Frost (S) (T) (6122). 9.30 The Heaven and Earth Show (S) (98039). 10.30 *Porridge* (R) (T) (98316). 11.00 Match of Their Day (S) (T) (7403). 11.30 *Countryfile* (S) (T) (8132). 12.00 *News* (T) (6151887). 12.05 *Hot Shots* (R) (S) (T) (9582919). 12.25 *Due South* (S) (T) (S345497). 1.00 *EastEnders* (R) (S) (T) (557300). 2.25 *Cartoon* (3532223).

**2.35** **[FILM]** *The Parent Trap* (366). Hayley Mills as twin sisters who meet for the first time at camp (T) (5560361).

**4.40** *MasterChef* (S) (T) (7289403). 5.30 *News; Weather* (T) (2450229). 5.30 *Regional News and Weather* (33671).

**5.35** *Songs of Praise* (S) (T) (583887).

**6.10** *Last of the Summer Wine*. Long-running sitcom (R) (S) (T) (98403).

**6.40** *Antiques Roadshow*. The antiques team visit Gateshead (S) (T) (250652).

**7.25** **[FILM]** *Stargate* (1994). Kurt Russell "boldly goes" through a time portal in the comic-strip sci-fi (S) (T) (6267787).

**9.15** *News; Weather* (T) (769720).

**9.30** *The Lakes*. The villagers attend the funeral of the three children tragically drowned in the lake (S) (T) (517707).

**10.30** *Unfinished Business*. Comedy starring Hamish Walter (S) (T) (987403).

**10.40** *Fm Alan Partridge*. Comedy series charting the fortunes of the offy former chat-show host (R) (S) (T) (4516788).

**11.00** *Royal Wax Meets...* (R) (S) (T) (300294). 11.00 *The Big End* (S) (T) (277134).

**12.30** **[FILM]** *Final Verdict* (1991). Treat Williams as Twenties lawyer Earl Rogers in a low-key tele-biopic (S) (T) (104527).

**1.40** *The Sky at Night* (S) (T) (6802689). 2.05 *Joins BBC News 24* (7475256). To 6am.

**7.30** *King Greenfingers* (R) (S) (450945). 7.35 *Dilly the Dinosaur* (R) (340943). 7.45 *Teletubbies* (S) (4684294). 8.30 *Little Mouse on the Prairie* (R) (T) (7493768). 8.45 *Alvin and the Chipmunks* (R) (7578403). 8.50 *Charlie Brown and Snoopy Show* (R) (S) (T) (656565). 9.45 *The Wild Horse* (S) (T) (560561). 10.10 *Wayne Manifesto* (S) (T) (5322223). 10.35 *Grange Hill* (R) (S) (T) (5046045). 11.00 *Kids and Cops* (S) (T) (78162). 11.25 *Grange Hill* (R) (S) (T) (5745785). 11.50 *The O Zone* (R) (S) (T) (7609774). 12.05 *The Simpsons* (R) (S) (T) (451652). 12.20 *Robot War* (R) (S) (T) (32224). 1.00 *Top Gear - The TVR Story* (S) (T) (9958). 1.30 *Sunday Grandstand* (S) (T) (7918326). 1.35 *Ski Sunday* (S) (T) (900671). 2.20 *The Boat Show* (S) (2229).

**6.00** *World Dark*. Coverage of the final of the 1999 Embassy world championship. With Ray Stubbs (S) (4546229).

**8.10** *Inside the Lords*. The series continues by meeting a collection of cross-benchers - members with no party allegiance (S) (T) (523671).

**8.50** *Monet's Gardens* (S) (T) (19967).

**9.00** *History of Alternative Comedy*. Angus Deayton tells how the new wave of British comedy began (S) (T) (2381).

**9.30** *Gimme Gimme Gimme*. Linda and Tom arrive to find a half-naked man in their flat (S) (T) (25958).

**10.00** *Clockwatch* (S) (T) (25386).

**10.30** **[CHOICE]** *Shooting the Past*. Three-part drama by Stephen Polakoff. See *Choice*, below (S) (T) (7937689).

**11.25** **[FILM]** *Timescape* (1992). Small-town widow Jeff Daniels has peculiar visitors at his modest guest house. A small-scale fantasy, but it's well-acted (S) (T) (606381).

**2.00** *Learning Zone*. (71333817). To 6.35am.

**6.00** **GMTV** (56671). 8.00 *Diggit* (1135377). 9.25 *Art Attack* (R) (S) (T) (6575942). 9.55 *Worst Witch* (R) (S) (T) (5950381). 10.25 *Superman* (324403). 10.55 *Carlton* (R) (7578403). 11.00 *My Favourite Hymn* (S) (T) (9671). 11.30 *Sunday Morning* (S) (T) (22774). 12.30 *The Sunday Supplement* (29720). 1.00 *News; Weather* (T) (7379720). 1.10 *Jonathan Dimbleby* (S) (T) (559562). 2.00 *Granada News* (T) (32274010). 2.05 *Murder, She Wrote* (2023203).

**3.00** **[FILM]** *Meet Me in St Louis* (1944). A great musical, affectionately recreating idyllic small-town life in the early 1900s. With Judy Garland (78855).

**5.00** *Coronation Street* (R) (T) (7855).

**6.00** *Granada News* (T) (867720).

**6.45** *Soccer Sunday* (482213).

**7.00** *Bill Bryson's Notes from a Small Island*. Travelogue (S) (T) (8584).

**7.30** *Coronation Street* (T) (923).

**8.00** *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?* Big-money quiz show (S) (T) (4872).

**8.30** *Heartbeat* (S) (T) (70887).

**9.30** *London's Burning*. Blue Watch grieves over Nick's death (S) (T) (72233).

**10.30** *News; Weather* (T) (555395).

**10.45** *The South Bank Show*. Profile of singer John Tomlinson (R) (S) (T) (4516771).

**11.45** *Faith and Music* (T) (210497). 12.45 *Still in Bed with McDinner* (T) (5720275).

**12.50** **[FILM]** *Hearts on Fire* (1991). Tom Skerritt: his nurse Marg Helgenberger to help tend his wife (T) (73614).

**2.35** *seaQuest DSV* (S) (8158256). 3.30 *Jonathan Dimbleby* (S) (T) (712140). 4.20 *Cybernet* (R) (S) (59573546). 4.45 *ITV Nightscreen* (5562459). 5.30 *News* (70256). To 6am.

**6.05** *BRI and Ted's Excellent Adventures* (7951300). 8.00 *Dog City* (994942). 10.55 *Frootic Tooties* (6161076). 7.30 *Animal Alphabet* (6299385). 7.45 *Sally's Lighthouse* (35687). 7.45 *The Magic School Bus* (34382). 8.45 *Johnny Bravo* (293584). 9.45 *Catalog* (51210). 9.45 *Planet Pop* (633624). 10.00 *The Waltons* (1074). 11.00 *Holycross* (320720). 12.20 *The Waltons* (6583820). 12.35 *Footfall Falls* (4973436). 3.30 *Earthscape* (696229).

**3.40** **[FILM]** *A Challenge for Robin Hood* (1967). Straightforward re-telling of the family tale (503358).

**5.30** *Time Team*. A Cumbrian family want to know why their back garden is full of Roman pottery (65942).

**6.30** *The Hampton Court Palace*. Omnibus edition (R) (8107).

**7.30** *Arthouse - Loving Lenin*. Arts documentary about the creation of the Lenin myth in Russia, made as the Russian people are about to vote whether his embalmed body should remain in Red Square (86774).

**8.30** *Hostage*. First of a three-part on the Beirut hostage crisis. Contributors include Terry Waite, Brian Keenan, Oliver North and Jill Morell (72229).

**9.30** **[FILM]** *True Blue* (1996). True story about an attempted mutiny by American members of the Oxford crew in the 1987 Boat Race (3083054).

**11.40** *Babylon 5* (161497). 12.35 *Dark Skies* (R) (S) (T) (5167168).

**1.30** **[FILM]** *Les Amants du Pont-Neuf* (1961). Juliette Binoche plays a young artist losing her sight and getting together with doleful street punk Denis Lavant. An extravagant urban fairytale from Leos Carax (5040403).

**3.40** **[FILM]** *Claudia* (1943). Dorothy McGuire is the titular young bride perplexed by married life (681817).

**5.15** *Benny the Boy Atlas*. Quirky comedy (7522343). To 6am.

**6.00** **[FILM]** *Mixing It* (S) (5750364). 6.30 *Havakkozo* (R) (7738571). 2.00 *Deppdown Farm* (R) (S) (T) (617132). 7.30 *Milkshake* (S) (T) (5950381). 8.00 *Do You Believe in It?* (S) (T) (6155336). 8.30 *The Revolution Game* (S) (T) (6165151). 9.05 *Stuck Around* (223590). 9.30 *Kablam!* (5040425). 10.00 *The Valley Between* (R) (S) (T) (6155336). 10.30 *Ernest Goes to Camp* (1967). Rubber-faced Jim Varney is a wow with kids in America. Warning: he makes Jerry Lewis look normal (T) (68878497).

**7.00** *From Jesus to Christ*. Documentary series about the rise of Christianity, presented by Terry Waite. This episode considers the political and social climate which influenced how the story of Jesus was told and eventually written as the Gospels (S) (T) (5820316).

**8.00** *Call of the Wild*. Wildlife documentary examining the world of the mountain gorilla, a peaceful, family-minded, even humorous vegetarian who seeks to avoid trouble (R) (T) (5533836).

**9.00** **[FILM]** *No One Would Tell* (1996). Candace Cameron falls for the wrong guy at high school. Gloomily melodrama with Fred Savage (T) (5223972).

**10.40** *The Comedy Store*. Stand-up comedy at London's Comedy Store from Arj Barker, Paul Thorne, Andy Robinson and Steve Gribbin (S) (3437126).

**11.45** *Water Rats* (662228). 12.05 *Sports Talk* with Steve Scott (617121). 12.35 *Ice Hockey - NHL '96*. Colorado Avalanche vs Detroit Redwings (T) (5977527). 4.40 *Tibbs and Fibs* (R) (S) (T) (720509). 5.30 *Move On Up* (H) (S) (T) (6568163). 5.30 *Wildlife SOS* (R) (205039). To 6am.

**Amelia** (2000). 8.30 *Angela's Ashes*. As a boyhood exceptant, 12-year-old Brian Molko (1999). 9.30 *Sheila's Wedding* (1999). 10.00 *Central News* (2000). 10.30 *Coronation Street* (2000). 11.00 *EastEnders* (2000). 11.30 *Coronation Street* (2000). 12.00 *Emmerdale* (2000). 12.30 *Emmerdale* (2000). 1.00 *Coronation Street* (2000). 1.30 *Emmerdale* (2000). 2.00 *Emmerdale* (2000). 2.30 *Emmerdale* (2000). 3.00 *Emmerdale* (2000). 3.30 *Emmerdale* (2000). 4.00 *Emmerdale* (2000). 4.30 *Emmerdale* (2000). 5.00 *Emmerdale* (2000). 5.30 *Emmerdale* (2000). 6.00 *Emmerdale* (2000). 6.30 *Emmerdale* (2000). 7.00 *Emmerdale* (2000). 7.30 *Emmerdale* (2000). 8.00 *Emmerdale* (2000). 8.30 *Emmerdale* (2000). 9.00 *Emmerdale* (2000). 9.30 *Emmerdale* (2000). 10.00 *Emmerdale* (2000). 10.30 *Emmerdale* (2000). 11.00 *Emmerdale* (2000). 11.30 *Emmerdale* (2000). 12.00 *Emmerdale* (2000). 12.30 *Emmerdale* (2000). 1.00 *Emmerdale* (2000). 1.30 *Emmerdale* (2000). 2.00 *Emmerdale* (2000). 2.30 *Emmerdale* (2000). 3.00 *Emmerdale* (2000). 3.30 *Emmerdale* (2000). 4.00 *Emmerdale* (2000). 4.30 *Emmerdale* (2000). 5.00 *Emmerdale* (2000). 5.30 *Emmerdale* (2000). 6.00 *Emmerdale* (2000). 6.30 *Emmerdale* (2000). 7.00 *Emmerdale* (2000). 7.30 *Emmerdale* (2000). 8.00 *Emmerdale* (2000). 8.30 *Emmerdale* (2000). 9.00 *Emmerdale* (2000). 9.30 *Emmerdale* (2000). 10.00 *Emmerdale* (2000). 10.30 *Emmer*



BBC1  
BBC2ITV Carlton  
Channel 4

## Channel 4

## Channel 5

**JASPER REES**

## TELEVISION REVIEW

AS PART OF "MASTER NIGHT" on New Year's Day, Channel 4 screened two episodes which viewers had nominated as their favourite. It was a tuneful show, but an even more tuneful choice, because Jasper himself was on vocal and his character won. Kohoy Grunner appeared in the new series (10), Frasier has been fed from KCAT, and appears to have joined it up as a TV star. We found him welcoming viewers to his new slot, and making respectful noises about the previous oscar-potent American viewers would have read that as a subtextual homage to *Seinfeld*. For this sixth series, Frasier has stepped into Setfield's shoes in NBC's prestigious spin slot. On Thursday, the studio audience duly gave it a knowing laugh. The camera panned back to reveal that this was only a screen test, and Frasier has by no means got a new job. There's a sense in which the character is auditioning not only in America as Setfield's replacement, but also for the British audience, whose favourite episode was the one in which Miles took Daphne dropped out. In this new series, their romance has finally been allowed to blossom. They may as well start calling the show *Niles*. There has been only one episode of *Gimme Gimme Gimme* (BBC2) so far, and I've already nominated my favourite. It's the one where those two main characters go on holiday in the first scene and never come back. In this dream episode, their neighbour, a retired prostitute, won't have to complain about the noise. "Ain't had a trip home can put up with," she drawled last night, "but when you put on *Acker Bilk* I was sick." There's no address on the planet who could make that line sing. On paper, this fastsure sitcom has enough going for it. It sees Kathy Burke as a lonely, bitter, turnip-headed, and James Dreyfus as a gay actor between jobs. The script is by Jonathan Harvey, and the direction is by Jonathan Harvey.

In the new series (10), Frasier has been fed from KCAT, and appears to have joined it up as a TV star. We found him welcoming viewers to his new slot, and making respectful noises about the previous oscar-potent American viewers would have read that as a subtextual homage to *Seinfeld*. For this sixth series, Frasier has stepped into Setfield's shoes in NBC's prestigious spin slot. On Thursday, the studio audience duly gave it a knowing laugh. The camera panned back to reveal that this was only a screen test, and Frasier has by no means got a new job. There's a sense in which the character is auditioning not only in America as Setfield's replacement, but also for the British audience, whose favourite episode was the one in which Miles took Daphne dropped out. In this new series, their romance has finally been allowed to blossom. They may as well start calling the show *Niles*. There has been only one episode of *Gimme Gimme Gimme* (BBC2) so far, and I've already nominated my favourite. It's the one where those two main characters go on holiday in the first scene and never come back. In this dream episode, their neighbour, a retired prostitute, won't have to complain about the noise. "Ain't had a trip home can put up with," she drawled last night, "but when you put on *Acker Bilk* I was sick." There's no address on the planet who could make that line sing. On paper, this fastsure sitcom has enough going for it. It sees Kathy Burke as a lonely, bitter, turnip-headed, and James Dreyfus as a gay actor between jobs. The script is by Jonathan Harvey, and the direction is by Jonathan Harvey.

7.00 **The Munsters** (1) (1) (2/12/89). 7.25 **News**: Weather (1919). 7.30 **Fernan Sam** (1) (3/4/89). 7.40 **Grandstand** (1) (7/4/89). 7.45 **Football Focus** (2/27/89). 1.45 **Racing** (2/20/89). 2.20 **Racing from Lepoardstown** (2/20/89). 2.30 **Round the Grounds** (2/20/89). 2.45 **World Darts** (3/20/89). 3.45 **Footie Hell** (1) (2/18/89). 4.00 **World Darts** (2/20/89). 4.45 **Final Score** (2/20/89). 5.15 **News** (1) (6/17/89). 5.25 **Regional News** (1) (6/17/89). 5.30 **Q. Asia** (1) (19/89). 5.45 **Live and Kicking** (1) (22/89).

6.15 **News** (1) (6/17/89). 6.20 **Football Focus** (2/27/89). 6.45 **Racing** (2/20/89). 7.00 **Grandstand** (1) (7/4/89). 7.30 **News** (1) (6/17/89). 7.45 **Footie Hell** (1) (2/18/89). 8.00 **Weekend 24** (1) (4/9/89). 8.30 **Q. Asia** (1) (19/89). 8.45 **Live and Kicking** (1) (22/89). 9.00 **News** (1) (6/17/89). 9.15 **Grandstand** (1) (7/4/89). 9.30 **News** (1) (6/17/89). 9.45 **Footie Hell** (1) (2/18/89). 10.00 **Food and Drink** (1) (8/20/89). 11.20 **See Hell** (1) (11/12/89). 11.45 **Food and Drink** (1) (8/20/89).

12.45 **News** (1) (6/17/89). 12.45 **Grandstand** (1) (7/4/89). 1.00 **Football Focus** (2/27/89). 1.45 **Racing** (2/20/89). 2.20 **Racing from Lepoardstown** (2/20/89). 2.30 **Round the Grounds** (2/20/89). 2.45 **World Darts** (3/20/89). 3.45 **Footie Hell** (1) (2/18/89). 4.00 **World Darts** (2/20/89). 4.45 **Final Score** (2/20/89). 5.15 **News** (1) (6/17/89). 5.25 **Regional News** (1) (6/17/89). 5.30 **Q. Asia** (1) (19/89). 5.45 **Live and Kicking** (1) (22/89).

6.15 **News** (1) (6/17/89). 6.20 **Football Focus** (2/27/89). 6.45 **Racing** (2/20/89). 7.00 **Grandstand** (1) (7/4/89). 7.30 **News** (1) (6/17/89). 7.45 **Footie Hell** (1) (2/18/89). 8.00 **Weekend 24** (1) (4/9/89). 8.30 **Q. Asia** (1) (19/89). 8.45 **Live and Kicking** (1) (22/89). 9.00 **News** (1) (6/17/89). 9.15 **Grandstand** (1) (7/4/89). 9.30 **News** (1) (6/17/89). 9.45 **Footie Hell** (1) (2/18/89). 10.00 **Food and Drink** (1) (8/20/89). 11.20 **See Hell** (1) (11/12/89). 11.45 **Food and Drink** (1) (8/20/89).

12.45 **News** (1) (6/17/89). 12.45 **Grandstand** (1) (7/4/89). 1.00 **Football Focus** (2/27/89). 1.45 **Racing** (2/20/89). 2.20 **Racing from Lepoardstown** (2/20/89). 2.30 **Round the Grounds** (2/20/89). 2.45 **World Darts** (3/20/89). 3.45 **Footie Hell** (1) (2/18/89). 4.00 **World Darts** (2/20/89). 4.45 **Final Score** (2/20/89). 5.15 **News** (1) (6/17/89). 5.25 **Regional News** (1) (6/17/89). 5.30 **Q. Asia** (1) (19/89). 5.45 **Live and Kicking** (1) (22/89).

6.15 **News** (1) (6/17/89). 6.20 **Football Focus** (2/27/89). 6.45 **Racing** (2/20/89). 7.00 **Grandstand** (1) (7/4/89). 7.30 **News** (1) (6/17/89). 7.45 **Footie Hell** (1) (2/18/89). 8.00 **Weekend 24** (1) (4/9/89). 8.30 **Q. Asia** (1) (19/89). 8.45 **Live and Kicking** (1) (22/89).

6.15 **News** (1) (6/17/89). 6.20 **Football Focus** (2/27/89). 6.45 **Racing** (2/20/89). 7.00 **Grandstand** (1) (7/4/89). 7.30 **News** (1) (6/17/89). 7.45 **Footie Hell** (1) (2/18/89). 8.00 **Weekend 24** (1) (4/9/89). 8.30 **Q. Asia** (1) (19/89). 8.45 **Live and Kicking** (1) (22/89).

6.15 **News** (1) (6/17/89). 6.20 **Football Focus** (2/27/89). 6.45 **Racing** (2/20/89). 7.00 **Grandstand** (1) (7/4/89). 7.30 **News** (1) (6/17/89). 7.45 **Footie Hell** (1) (2/18/89). 8.00 **Weekend 24** (1) (4/9/89). 8.30 **Q. Asia** (1) (19/89). 8.45 **Live and Kicking** (1) (22/89).

6.15 **News** (1) (6/17/89). 6.20 **Football Focus** (2/27/89). 6.45 **Racing** (2/20/89). 7.00 **Grandstand** (1) (7/4/89). 7.30 **News** (1) (6/17/89). 7.45 **Footie Hell** (1) (2/18/89). 8.00 **Weekend 24** (1) (4/9/89). 8.30 **Q. Asia** (1) (19/89). 8.45 **Live and Kicking** (1) (22/89).

6.15 **News** (1) (6/17/89). 6.20 **Football Focus** (2/27/89). 6.45 **Racing** (2/20/89). 7.00 **Grandstand** (1) (7/4/89). 7.30 **News** (1) (6/17/89). 7.45 **Footie Hell** (1) (2/18/89). 8.00 **Weekend 24** (1) (4/9/89). 8.30 **Q. Asia** (1) (19/89). 8.45 **Live and Kicking** (1) (22/89).

6.15 **News** (1) (6/17/89). 6.20 **Football Focus** (2/27/89). 6.45 **Racing** (2/20/89). 7.00 **Grandstand** (1) (7/4/89). 7.30 **News** (1) (6/17/89). 7.45 **Footie Hell** (1) (2/18/89). 8.00 **Weekend 24** (1) (4/9/89). 8.30 **Q. Asia** (1) (19/89). 8.45 **Live and Kicking** (1) (22/89).

6.15 **News** (1) (6/17/89). 6.20 **Football Focus** (2/27/89). 6.45 **Racing** (2/20/89). 7.00 **Grandstand** (1) (7/4/89). 7.30 **News** (1) (6/17/89). 7.45 **Footie Hell** (1) (2/18/89). 8.00 **Weekend 24** (1) (4/9/89). 8.30 **Q. Asia** (1) (19/89). 8.45 **Live and Kicking** (1) (22/89).

6.15 **News** (1) (6/17/89). 6.20 **Football Focus** (2/27/89). 6.45 **Racing** (2/20/89). 7.00 **Grandstand** (1) (7/4/89). 7.30 **News** (1) (6/17/89). 7.45 **Footie Hell** (1) (2/18/89). 8.00 **Weekend 24** (1) (4/9/89). 8.30 **Q. Asia** (1) (19/89). 8.45 **Live and Kicking** (1) (22/89).

6.15 **News** (1) (6/17/89). 6.20 **Football Focus** (2/27/89). 6.45 **Racing** (2/20/89). 7.00 **Grandstand** (1) (7/4/89). 7.30 **News** (1) (6/17/89). 7.45 **Footie Hell** (1) (2/18/89). 8.00 **Weekend 24** (1) (4/9/89). 8.30 **Q. Asia** (1) (19/89). 8.45 **Live and Kicking** (1) (22/89).

6.15 **News** (1) (6/17/89). 6.20 **Football Focus** (2/27/89). 6.45 **Racing** (2/20/89). 7.00 **Grandstand** (1) (7/4/89). 7.30 **News** (1) (6/17/89). 7.45 **Footie Hell** (1) (2/18/89). 8.00 **Weekend 24** (1) (4/9/89). 8.30 **Q. Asia** (1) (19/89). 8.45 **Live and Kicking** (1) (22/89).

6.15 **News** (1) (6/17/89). 6.20 **Football Focus** (2/27/89). 6.45 **Racing** (2/20/89). 7.00 **Grandstand** (1) (7/4/89). 7.30 **News** (1) (6/17/89). 7.45 **Footie Hell** (1) (2/18/89). 8.00 **Weekend 24** (1) (4/9/89). 8.30 **Q. Asia** (1) (19/89). 8.45 **Live and Kicking** (1) (22/89).

6.15 **News** (1) (6/17/89). 6.20 **Football Focus** (2/27/89). 6.45 **Racing** (2/20/89). 7.00 **Grandstand** (1) (7/4/89). 7.30 **News** (1) (6/17/89). 7.45 **Footie Hell** (1) (2/18/89). 8.00 **Weekend 24** (1) (4/9/89). 8.30 **Q. Asia** (1) (19/89). 8.45 **Live and Kicking** (1) (22/89).

6.15 **News** (1) (6/17/89). 6.20 **Football Focus** (2/27/89). 6.45 **Racing** (2/20/89). 7.00 **Grandstand** (1) (7/4/89). 7.30 **News** (1) (6/17/89). 7.45 **Footie Hell** (1) (2/18/89). 8.00 **Weekend 24** (1) (4/9/89). 8.30 **Q. Asia** (1) (19/89). 8.45 **Live and Kicking** (1) (22/89).

6.15 **News** (1) (6/17/89). 6.20 **Football Focus** (2/27/89). 6.45 **Racing** (2/20/89). 7.00 **Grandstand** (1) (7/4/89). 7.30 **News** (1) (6/17/89). 7.45 **Footie Hell** (1) (2/18/89). 8.00 **Weekend 24** (1) (4/9/89). 8.30 **Q. Asia** (1) (19/89). 8.45 **Live and Kicking** (1) (22/89).

6.15 **News** (1) (6/17/89). 6.20 **Football Focus** (2/27/89). 6.45 **Racing** (2/20/89). 7.00 **Grandstand** (1) (7/4/89). 7.30 **News** (1) (6/17/89). 7.45 **Footie Hell** (1) (2/18/89). 8.00 **Weekend 24** (1) (4/9/89). 8.30 **Q. Asia** (1) (19/89). 8.45 **Live and Kicking** (1) (22/89).

6.15 **News** (1) (6/17/89). 6.20 **Football Focus** (2/27/89). 6.45 **Racing** (2/20/89). 7.00 **Grandstand** (1) (7/4/89). 7.30 **News** (1) (6/17/89). 7.45 **Footie Hell** (1) (2/18/89). 8.00 **Weekend 24** (1) (4/9/89). 8.30 **Q. Asia** (1) (19/89). 8.45 **Live and Kicking** (1) (22/89).

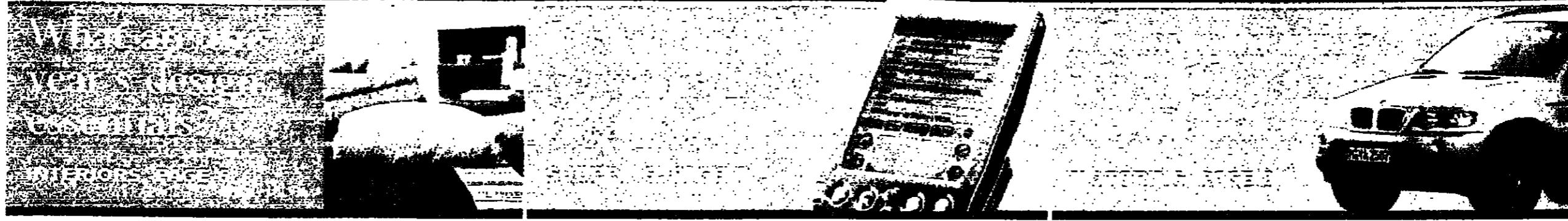
6.15 **News** (1) (6/17/89). 6.20 **Football Focus** (2/27/89). 6.45 **Racing** (2/20/89). 7.00 **Grandstand** (1) (7/4/89). 7.30 **News** (1) (6/17/89). 7.45 **Footie Hell** (1) (2/18/89). 8.00 **Weekend 24** (1) (4/9/89). 8.30 **Q. Asia** (1) (19/89). 8.45 **Live and Kicking** (1) (22/89).

6.15 **News** (1) (6/17/89). 6.20 **Football Focus** (2/27/89). 6.45 **Racing** (2/20/89). 7.00 **Grandstand** (1) (7/4/89). 7.30 **News** (1) (6/17/89). 7.45 **Footie Hell** (1) (2/18/89). 8.00 **Weekend 24** (1) (4/9/89). 8.30 **Q. Asia** (1) (19/89). 8.45 **Live and Kicking** (1) (22/89).

6.15 **News** (1) (6/17/89). 6.20 **Football Focus** (2/27/89). 6.45

# YOUR MONEY

HOW TO MAKE IT • HOW TO SPEND IT



## Make euros work for you

Many banks are already offering euro products, but will customers use them? By Rachel Fixsen

In case anyone is confused, here's a reminder: the UK has opted out of the European single currency - the pound is still the pound. Most of us knew that anyway, but with every high-street bank in Britain offering some sort of euro product, from current accounts to mortgages, you could be forgiven for thinking this country had adopted the euro too.

Barclays and NatWest say they are offering personal customers a full range of banking products in the euro - the new currency which came into effect in 11 European countries at the beginning of the year.

Some banks have embraced the euro enthusiastically, launching a raft of new products to test the market, but others are more sceptical. Lloyds TSB, Cater Allen Bank and Citibank are also offering euro current accounts, but Midland sees limited demand and is only offering euro travellers' cheques.

Charges vary. There is no charge for the NatWest, Barclays or Citibank accounts, but both have high minimum balances - 3,000 and 2,000 euros respectively. Citibank charges 15 euros a month if the balance falls below this.

Most of the accounts pay interest, but only at a very low level. Citibank pays tiered interest, from a quarter per cent up to 1 per cent for balances over 50,000 euros.

Who needs a euro current account? Typically, these accounts would have an appeal for internationally orientated customers, says Citibank's Amanda Iremonger. Someone who travels regularly to the rest of Europe, or somebody who owns property or has personal contacts to other European countries might be tempted to open an account. Citibank has already received a lot of customer interest in the euro current account. "As the euro becomes more a part of people's lives, it will become more applicable to a broader section of the public," says Ms Iremonger.



Giant balloons, one for each currency taking part, mark the start of the euro in Paris

Jack Dabaghian/Reuters

of NatWest's customer base. Lloyds TSB says euro current accounts have only been opened by customers who already hold accounts in euro - the forerunner to the euro - or a European foreign currency.

Most people in the UK will not have to change their banking arrangements at all. The euro is just another foreign currency. Existing debit and credit cards can generally be used in continental Europe to shop in euros, just as they were used to buy marks and francs.

Euro-denominated travellers' cheques should be more widely used than euro accounts. They are being offered by all the banks, although travellers' cheques will also be available in the original European currencies. Someone going on holiday to France may choose to take travellers' cheques in francs. But if the journey is likely to involve more than one European country, euro travellers' cheques would be better, as they can be cashed in any of the 11 participating countries.

Whether all shops and restaurants in Euroland will actually accept euro travellers' cheques remains to be seen.

Midland says it cannot guarantee they will be accepted in all outlets, though banks will certainly accept them.

Since interest rates for the euro are lower than sterling rates, savings accounts have little appeal. Through its offshore branches, Halifax has launched a euro savings account with a minimum opening balance of 10,000 euros. Rates are tiered from 2.25 per cent to 3 per cent for over 250,000 euros. With euro returns so low, Lloyds TSB says there is little point in offering savings accounts.

But lower rates should mean cheaper mortgages. Barclays has already launched a euro mortgage, and Abbey National is due to unveil a similar product next month. Lloyds TSB says it plans to offer a euro

mortgage in the second quarter of this year.

The loan, made against a UK property, is denominated in euros and monthly repayments must be in the new currency. Barclays' euro variable mortgage rate is 4.72 per cent, compared to 7.7 per cent for its sterling rate. On a £100,000 interest-only mortgage, this would mean payments of £371 a month, compared to £614 on the standard rate.

But providers are quick to warn about the risks involved in taking out any type of foreign currency mortgage, and stipulate that borrowers must have an income in euros. "In the late Eighties when interest rates were high, we did see people looking to borrow in a foreign currency," says Margaret Schwarz, product manager for mortgages at Abbey National. "But they were rather badly burned by the depreciation of sterling," she adds.

If the euro rises sharply against sterling, a euro mortgage raised against a house priced in sterling could even become higher than the value of the property, leaving the borrower with negative equity. Because of this risk, Barclays will only lend up to 65 per cent of the value of the property with its euro mortgage, and Abbey National has set a 70 per cent loan-to-value limit. "No one knows how stable the euro will be," says Mike Thompson, Barclays' euro manager.

People working for multinational companies are most likely to take out euro mortgages, says Margaret Schwarz. "We have already had quite a surprising response," she adds.

Lloyds TSB euro helpline: 0845 3000138; Barclays euro helpline: 0845 60066

### BARGAIN HUNTER



#### Property of the week

Rooms with a view of the Downs

IT HASN'T been touched for about 20 years and needs new plumbing, wiring, kitchen and a bathroom - but if The Elms, a large detached Victorian house in Pulborough, West Sussex, was renovated, it could be worth another £75,000. The five-bedroom red-brick house overlooking the South Downs retains original features such as fireplaces, picture rails and sash windows. There's also a building in the garden which was used as a nursery school. With outdoor swimming pool, it's for sale at £275,000 through Guy Leonard. For details ring 01798 874033.

ROSALIND RUSSELL

#### Car of the week

Reports of its death were much exaggerated

IF YOU thought the Austin Maestro was dead, it has just been resting in crates. Rover tried to build them in Bulgaria four years ago, but the deal went bad and 138 vans and 485 cars came back to Blighty, in crates. Trans European Trading (01531 636252) bought them and rebuilt them. Transportation at its most basic. Not pretty, but easy and cheap to own, £3,995 as a left-hand drive, £4,995 converted. However, an ad by David Hill Associates offered a left-hand one for just £2,950. Hurry while stocks last. Call 01933 413863.

JAMES RUPPERT

#### Deal of the week

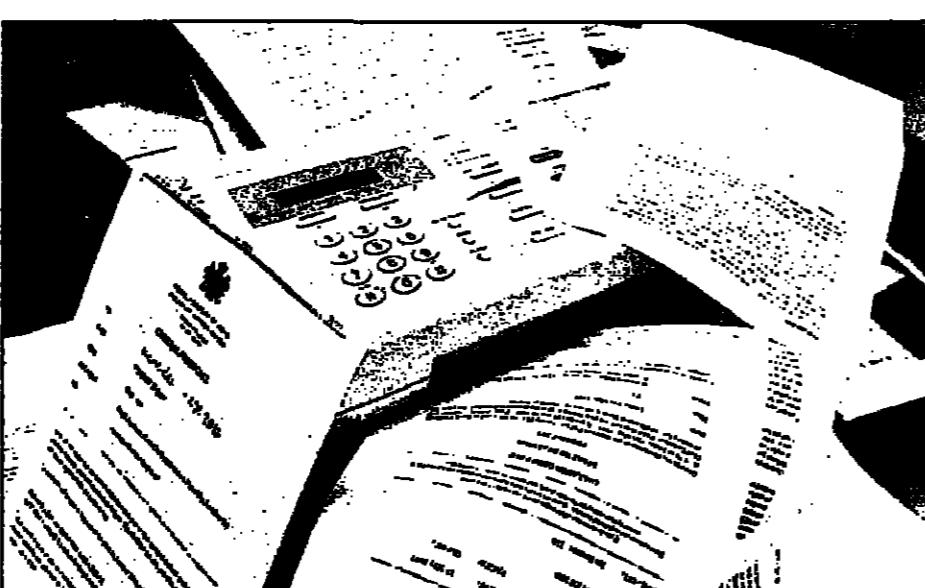
A good time to become a card carrier

EVERY TIME you think you have come up with a definitive bargain, someone comes up with a better deal - especially for those with a massive Christmas financial headache. Anyone taking out a Co-operative Bank Advantage or Advantage Gold Visa card will pay just 5.9 per cent on outstanding balances until July 1999. Thereafter, the rate reverts to a standard 13.8 per cent variable rate. The introductory deal includes debt transferred from other issuers, plus new purchases. Both cards have no annual fee. Any snags? Well, there's no interest-free period at all. Call 0800 126000.

NIC CICUTTI

## Basic information comes at a price you may not like

Phone and fax info lines can be a lot more expensive than you expect. By Paul Slade



Some premium rate lines, known as "fax-back" services, ask customers to dial a number on their own fax machine which will feed out the printed information promised. But it is you who pay for transmission of the faxes you order.

In 1997, Ictis fined a company called Telecom Express £2,500 for a fax-back service giving details of repossessed properties in their own area, which were often hopelessly out of date. The service charged callers £1.50 a minute, and lists regularly took more than 15 minutes to come through, creating a total charge of £22.50.

Mr Dwight says that people getting unwanted faxes promoting services like these should write to the company responsible and ask to be removed from their lists: "If they are still receiving faxes from the company after a two to three week period, then we may take it up as a breach of our code."

You can also contact the Telephone Preference Service or the Fax Preference Service. Their job is to circulate the details of people who want to be removed from their members' lists, but you may have to be persistent to get your own details deleted.

Ictis complaints: 0800 500212; Telephone Preference Service: 0800 398893; Fax Preference Service: 0841 554555

ates made earlier in 1998. Bond Associates declined to comment on the fines when contacted by *The Independent*.

Last year, Ictis fined Nationwide List Brokers £500 for a fax service giving details of special offers from suppliers such as "leading banks, credit card companies, insurance companies, loan and financial companies". Recipients were told they would receive a fax every evening unless they faxed back a note asking to be taken off the list.

The £5,000 fine was imposed just before Christmas, and comes on top of another £750 Ictis fine against Bond Associates.

rate number, charging users £1.50 a minute. Unlike Bond Associates, Nationwide List Brokers' promotional material for fax services does carry a footnote pointing out the cost of the call.

Eight consumers in the Midlands complained about receiving the faxes. Ictis found Nationwide List Brokers was operating outside the terms of its permission certificate by sending unsolicited faxes.

Martin Fisher, Nationwide List Brokers' proprietor, says this service is no longer on offer, and that the promotional faxes were sent out by an employee who has since been dismissed.

An IFA can help you with advice on anything from getting a better mortgage to reducing your tax bill. Or, of course, with finding which of the hundreds of pensions or peps might be right for you. So if you're resolved to sort out your finances in 1999, send for our information pack today. And we'll pop it in the post. Cheers.

0117 971 1177

Please quote the reference code in the coupon.

Please send me my information pack, the names of three local IFAs and a voucher for a free consultation without obligation. I understand that no-one will call me as a result of filling in this coupon. The address is: IFA Limited, 17-19 Emery Road, Bristol BS4 5PF.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

You'd be better off with an IFA



THE WEEKEND REVIEW  
The Independent 9 January 1999

## PERSONAL FINANCE

I HAVE seen this in dozens of films. Little guy takes on big guy. Big guy batters little guy. "Stay down or you'll get hurt bad," he warns. Little guy gets up and gets battered again. This goes on until either the little guy succeeds (the big guy is very tired), or wins respect for not giving in.

The above scene came to me this week after reading that Michael Hardern, the former butler and one-track-minded campaigner for building societies to demutualise, is to relaunch a campaign to put a resolution - identical to the one narrowly defeated by Nationwide members in July - to this effect on the agenda at seven societies.

Portman, Britannia, Leeds & Holbeck, Skipton, Chelsea and Yorkshire are studying his proposals. Coventry appears to have escaped - Mr Hardern couldn't raise enough signatures.

His new intervention follows the decision by another campaigner, Stephen Major - a plumber from Lisburn, County Antrim - to trigger a vote among Bradford & Bingley members on the same subject in April.

It would be easy to suggest that because Nationwide rejected demutualisation, Bradford & Bingley will do so. But the Nationwide carpetbaggers will be out in even greater numbers at Bradford & Bingley. Its membership, after all, has doubled since 1995, and it is a fair bet that not all are loyal defenders of building societies.

As it happens, I am a member. I joined to get the best rates available on a particular account, and it has consistently outperformed similar accounts available from the high street banks. In common with Bradford & Bingley borrowers, I have done well with mutuality.

I will be voting against Mr Major in April. What annoys me, however, is not so much that he and



**NIC CICUTTI**  
*This is about letting a vital part of our savings industry operate unhindered*

Mr Hardern are exercising their right to put the issue to the test, but the ease with which they can do so.

It only takes 50 members to put an issue on the agenda or to stand for election to a mutual's board, which may seem democratic - until you realise that Hardern and co can disrupt a society for months.

When "ballotitis" strikes, a society has to close new accounts for fear of letting in more carpetbaggers, diverting the energies of staff and costing millions of pounds in lost returns.

The Treasury refuses to intervene, arguing that it is not there to protect societies against the will of their members. But this is about more than simply defending "democracy"; it is about allowing a vitally important arm of the UK's savings and mortgages movement to operate unhindered by constant interruption and to allow honest competition to continue between societies and banks.

All it would take is to raise to 500 the number of members needed. Even a 100 minimum might prevent the frivolous Mr Hardern from forcing societies like Leeds & Holbeck to demutualise (how would such a titchy outfit survive as a bank?).

If defeated in April, I hope that the little guy doesn't get up again.

# Time to put yourself first

## FINANCIAL MAKEOVER

**NAMES** TIM AND LINDA MAUDSLEY **AGES** 48 AND 50  
**OCCUPATIONS** ENGINEER AND NHS MANAGER



Tim and Linda Maudsley are acutely aware of the need to boost their pensions

*Guzelcan*

**T**im is an engineer working in the oil industry. His basic annual salary is £19,600, though he is almost guaranteed to double this when working offshore. Linda is a manager working for her local health authority. She earns £24,000 a year.

Both Tim and Linda are aware that their pension provision may be lacking. Tim has never been in a company pension scheme and made only modest contributions to personal pensions until 1994. Linda has accrued only six years on pensionable service within the NHS Superannuation Scheme. She has been contributing £35 a month to an AVC since 1989.

Much of their spare income has been spent on privately educating their daughters, Charlotte, 20, and Alison, 18. Charlotte is in her second year at university and is being financially supported by her parents. Alison is having a year out before starting a college course in September.

The **adviser**: Julian Crooks, financial planner at Murray Borrill & Partners, independent financial advisers and members of the IFA Network: Moorgate House, 23 Moorgate Road, Rotherham S60 2EN (01709 371675).

**The advice**: Both Tim and Linda need to boost their pension entitlements. Tim can expect a pension of around 20 per cent of his earnings in real terms at age 60; Linda around 25 per cent. Retirement at 55 would reduce their pensions to 10 per cent and 15 per cent respectively.

Both Tim and Linda would like to be able to consider the option of retirement from the age of 55 onwards. They have little hope of achieving this objective. Tim does have the flexibility of part-time working. Similarly, Linda foresees some of the same possibility for herself. This idea makes more sense.

Tim can improve his pension in two ways. Firstly, he can maximise his contributions. He is currently paying around £6,000 a year into pensions but could pay just over £10,000. On an ongoing basis Tim can increase his pension contributions by only £365 or so a month. As he will receive income tax relief automatically at 23 per cent, this will in fact cost him only £281.

Secondly, he should consider paying a single contribution to use up pensions relief unused from previous years. He can go back up to six previous years and carry forward the unused relief starting with the earliest year. In the current tax year, most of Tim's 40 per cent income tax rate will

be soaked up by his pension contributions. He could elect for part of his contributions made this year to be carried back to the last tax year. This could wipe out some tax at 40 per cent which has already been paid and could result in a refund of income tax.

Tim and Linda have around £21,000 on instant access. This should be reduced to perhaps £4,000-5,000 for short-term emergencies. The balance should be directed to Tim's pension.

As an employee, his single contribution would be automatically grossed up from £16,000 to almost £21,000, attracting tax relief at 23 per cent. His pension could be improved by around 90 per cent through this measure and by beginning additional monthly contributions.

Linda's contributions to the National Health Service Superannuation Scheme leave her able to contribute an extra £145 a month gross, or £112 a month after tax relief.

The total extra monthly pension contributions between them come to almost £400. If they cannot afford

this, whatever they do set aside should be split 75:25 in favour of Tim, who is proportionately more under-funded than Linda.

I would recommend that Tim consider with-profit pension plans offered by Standard Life and CGU and

in a range of PEPs, plus a Scottish Widows with-profits bond. The relative security of the Scottish Widows bond and Scottish Widows Safety Plus PEPs (an equity-linked PEP) that uses options to ensure a lock-in of unit prices once the stock market reaches certain levels is offset by the higher risk Skandia MultiPep.

This PEP carries higher charges than most owing to double-charging. In addition to Skandia's own charges, the funds managed by the underlying fund managers bear their own costs.

For Tim, the desired outcome is to receive returns that outweigh the effect of higher charges. The Skandia MultiPep boasts some of the most respected fund management groups. But careful fund selection is essential.

The Skandia PEP is the highest-risk part of their portfolio. It is short in overseas exposure. I would recommend links to the Fidelity North America and Gartmore European Selected Opportunities rather than the smaller UK companies' links to Schroder and Credit Suisse.

Charlotte's tuition fees are currently paid by her LEA. Her parents are helping with her living costs. The position for Alison will be slightly different. Unless she is treated as a "gap-year" student under the Government's new scheme, she will be expected to pay up to £1,000 annually towards her tuition fees.

The financial impact on Tim and Linda will be most severe from September 1999 to July 2000 when they will be supporting both Charlotte, in her last year, and Alison, in her first.

LEAs can award maintenance grants to students but assess parental incomes. From next year there could be scope for seeking LEA assistance since there will be two children to maintain and "residual income" could reduce significantly because pension contributions are an allowable deduction from gross income.

If Tim and Linda do find themselves short they ought to consider using monies from their bond and/or PEPs rather than sacrifice pension contributions which are fulfilling a greater long-term need. Tax is a major consideration with the bond. They need to ascertain just how much can be withdrawn without incurring a higher rate income tax liability.

Tim and Linda are also relatively exposed in the event of a long-term or critical illness. Linda would receive six months' full pay followed by six months' half-pay. Tim, on the other hand, is entitled to three months' full pay with further payments at the company's discretion.

Even if Tim had reached age 50 it would not be a good idea to retire. He would have to look to accumulated capital to top up incapacity benefit for which he may qualify from the state.

An alternative is to consider income protection insurance. This would help to protect the medium-term investments and Tim's pension. If there is no long-term illness income protection insurance from his employer, Tim could consider a policy which defers benefits until 52 weeks of illness. Norwich Union would charge £73 a month for a tax-free monthly index-linked benefit of £1,000.

Tim and Linda also need to review their wills. They have life policies with £100,000 for Tim, £50,000 for Linda) which are not written in trust and could be subject to inheritance tax. They should consider making the policies subject to appropriate trusts. Incidentally, cuts in life assurance rates mean that they could get replacement policies at a saving of nearly 30 per cent of Tim's premium and 20 per cent of Linda's.

### The Corporate Bond PEP

**The low cost high income PEP**

#### INVEST NOW

*to make the most of your final year's PEP allowance*

PROVIDER	ANNUAL MANAGEMENT CHARGE	RUNNING YIELD*
Legal & General Corporate Bond PEP	0.5%	6.5%
Standard Life Income PEP	0.7%	6.2%
Virgin Income PEP	0.7%	6.1%
Barclays Monthly Income PEP	0.75%	6.0%

**NO initial charges on lump sum investments**  
**NO withdrawal fee**  
**0.5% annual management charge**

Visit our web site at [www.LandG.com](http://www.LandG.com)

Find out more now - call freephone

0500 116622

8am to 8pm weekdays.  
9am to 5pm weekends.

Please quote ref: D7DJ01

Legal & General have led the way in providing low cost, high performance PEPs to our customers.

Over the years, our determination to provide outstanding value for money has meant that today Legal & General has in excess of £74 billion<sup>1</sup> under management.

A glance at the table shows that we deliver unbeatable value, providing the lowest cost diversified Corporate Bond PEP on the market with annual management charges of only 0.5%, with no initial charges on lump sum investments or withdrawal fees.

So, for a regular, tax-free income on your savings find out more about Britain's best value Income PEP today.

Just complete and return the coupon.

**Yes** I would like more information about the Legal & General Corporate Bond PEP. Postscript: I am a member of Legal & General Direct Limited. If you already have an PEP investment, please tick here  We may telephone you to make sure information requested has arrived safely. Now and then, we may tell you about other products or services of the Legal & General Group. If we do, we may be of interest to you. If you would prefer not to receive this carefully selected information, please tick here

Signature: Mr Mrs Mrs Mrs  
Forename: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
Tel. No. Home: \_\_\_\_\_  
Tel. No. Work: \_\_\_\_\_

Legal & General  
Umbrella

## Up the ante by slinging out the FTSE failures

A new tracker system claims to give better returns. By Clifford German

THE HOLY Grail for investors is a system which will automatically outperform the average and will do so without too much effort or risk. For at least the last 70 years, since Foreign & Colonial set up the first investment trust to pool investors' funds and use professional managers to outperform the market, the search for such a system has become increasingly complex and urgent.

Some investors swear by relatively simple methods, such as studying charts of the rise and fall of shares and indices. They aim to identify "trend lines" and turning points, to identify shares which are over or under valued. Others use banks of computers to crunch numbers and turn masses of data into conclusive evidence.

Professional stock-pickers have their own pet systems, such as George Soros and our own Jim Slater, whose Zulu Principle is based on identifying "value" in shares.

Some investment managers invest only in high-technology stocks or new issues, or look for shares which have reached rock bottom, while tip-sheets often swear by penny shares, on the grounds that the upside is bigger than the downside.

But there is ample evidence that after paying the fund managers' charges, the average managed fund, more often than not, underperformed the market it was supposed to beat.

This led to the expansion of "tracker funds", which are designed to follow the average performance of the market they invested in, allowing them to dispense with expensive managers and cut charges to as low as 0.5 per cent.

Tracker funds run by the likes of Virgin Direct, Legal & General and HSBC have been

helped by big companies having outperformed small company shares.

Active fund managers argue that, in falling markets, the freedom to sell shares and keep the money in cash would allow them to outperform trackers. That theory has not really been properly tested.

But there are obvious disadvantages in having to hold every share in the FTSE 100, even though some will perform a lot better than others. The system comes from Hargreaves Lansdown, the Bristol-based broker and investment manager, which is offering an Active Tracker PEP intended to add common sense to the virtues of a tracker fund.

The theory is simple. A tracker fund will outperform the average managed fund, but some of the top 100 shares will perform better than others, because not all are equally well managed or in growth sectors.

Anyone who can ditch the obvious duds will have a portfolio to outperform the index.

During 1998 the system kept Kingfisher but excluded Marks & Spencer, kept Scottish Power but excluded National Power, kept Tesco but excluded Safeway from the portfolio. The company doesn't claim to have got everything right, but says its "active tracker" outperformed the index by 5 per cent in 1998.

Exactly how it operates is a professional secret, but Hargreaves Lansdown has now decided to market it to investors, and see if it can be done again in 1999. The minimum investment is £2,500, the initial charge is 3 per cent and the annual management fee is 1 per cent. Good luck!

### LOOSE CHANGE

WITH b2, its new financial services arm, Barclays Bank has become the first provider to offer two PEPs that already meet the Government's CAT standards for low charges, fair terms and ease of access. It has cut the annual management

charge on its Market Track 350, which follows the UK's top 350 quoted companies, and Monthly Income PEPs to 0.95 per cent a year. Both PEPs allow savers to pay in premiums of £50 a month or a £500 lump sum. Savers can stop and start as they like. Call 0800 626262.

Perhaps you think that all pension plans are the same. If you do, then you would be making a big mistake. Here are some of the reasons why you should consider an Equitable Pension Plan.

#### THE EQUITABLE LIFE

- Pays no commission to third parties for the introduction of new business.
- Has no shareholders.
- Our PENSION PLAN:
  - Lets you retire earlier or later than planned - without penalty.
  - Lets you vary your contributions - without penalty.
  - Provides full return of fund in the event of death before retirement.

So, if you would like to find out more about how The Equitable Pension Plan is not the same as most others, call us direct on (0990) 38 48 58 or send off the coupon below for more information by post and by telephone.

For your security your telephone call may be recorded. Information/advice will only be given on Equitable group products. Regulated by the Personal Investment Authority.

THE EQUITABLE LIFE, FREEPOST, WALTON STREET, AYLESBURY, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE HP21 7RJ

I would welcome details on The Equitable's pension plans. I am self-employed. I am employed and not eligible to join a company pension scheme.

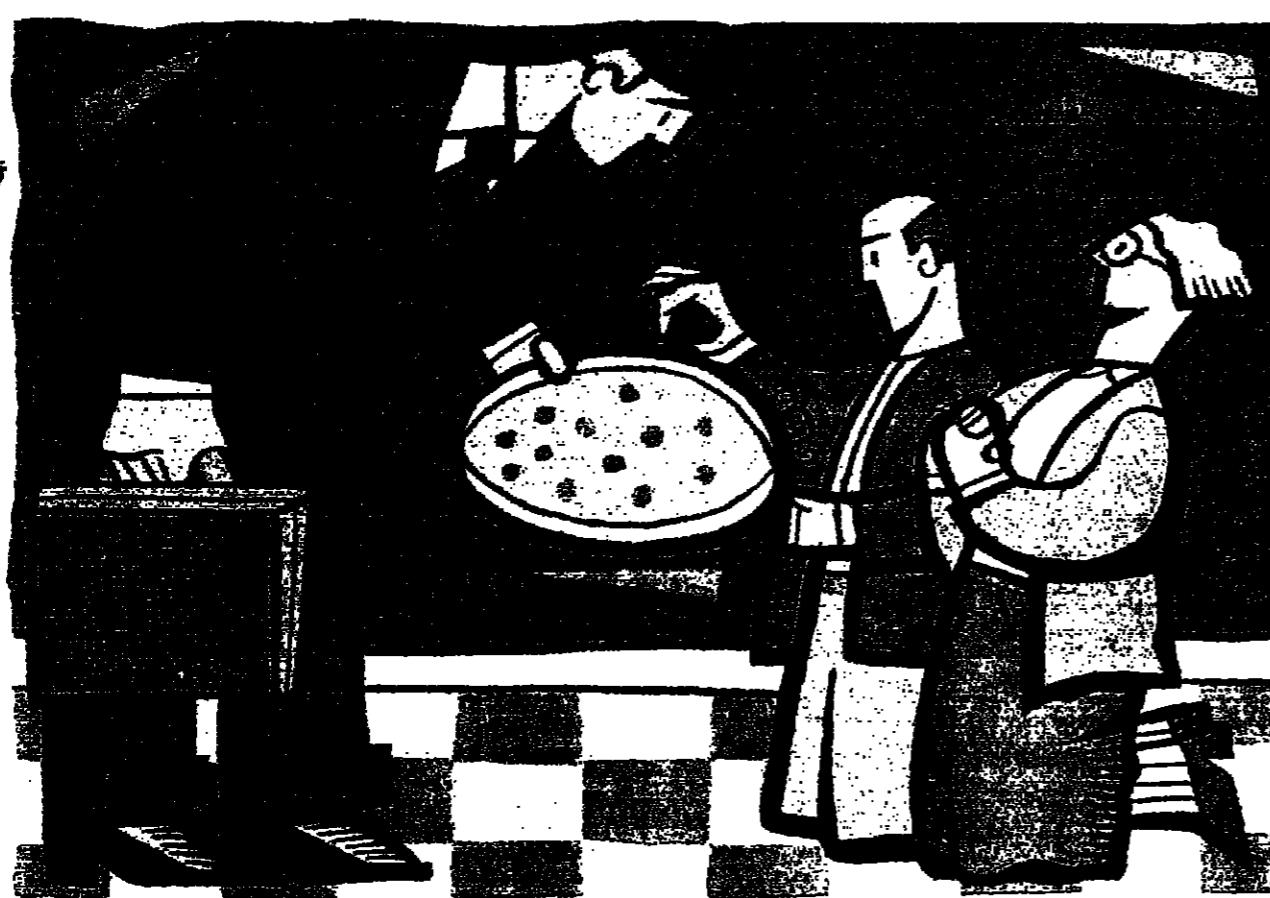
NAME (Mr/Mrs/Ms) \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
Tél. (Office): \_\_\_\_\_  
Tél. (Home): \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
Please quote ref: D7DJ01

**The Equitable Life**  
You profit from our principles

rst

# Stake your claim to a secure future

What you need to know about the new pensions. By Nic Cicutti



#### What will the SSP be like?

W<sup>h</sup>at will the SSP be like? It's rhetoric, or a genuine boost to millions of poorer people? When the Government announced its plans for a new system of stakeholder pensions recently, opinion on their likely effectiveness was mixed. Here, we explain some of the most important aspects of the proposals.

**What kind of a system do we have at the moment?**

It consists of a hodgepodge of overlapping types of provision. There is the state pension; there is the State Earnings-Related Pension Scheme (Serps), which is linked to earnings; there are company pension schemes and there are private ones. Someone could quite easily end up with a slice of pension from each of these sources. Meanwhile, the value of a combined state pension and Serps is expected to fall.

**Why was change needed?**

All political parties say that reform is necessary. The current system is in a mess. The number of people in retirement, compared to those in work, is rising fast and will continue to do so for the next 30-40 years. The Government argues that it cannot afford the rising cost of state pensions.

While the value of pensions paid on retirement is expected to grow in line with earnings, this will not be shared equally; the richest fifth of pensioners will grab a bigger slice. Poorer pensioners will therefore slip even further behind.

**So what is the Government planning to do?**

In essence, it will improve retirement incomes for the worst off, those earning below £9,000 a year, while using a mixture of financial incentives and coercion to "persuade" the rest of us to go private.

**How will this happen?**

In place of the current system, whereby from April a single pensioner receives £66.75 a week and couples get £106.70 basic pension, they will receive Minimum Income Guarantees of £7.5 a week and £119 a week respectively. At the same time, Serps, which was supposed to underpin the basic pension when it was launched in 1978, will be closed to new entrants, in favour of a new State Second Pension (SSP).

**Why will stakeholder schemes be better than occupational schemes?**

Employers will still be able to offer occupational schemes - and if they do, they don't have to offer a stakeholder pension.

Occupational schemes will be better for many employees - particularly those whose contributions are likely to be above £3,600, the maximum payable into a stakeholder scheme. For those likely to pay in below this threshold, and part-time or temporary workers, stakeholder schemes may be better - as long as employers contribute.

The Government suggests that in such cases, employers may want to have a two-tier system, offering both schemes side-by-side. Depending on your earnings, it will make sense to belong to one or the other.

**Will they be better than personal pensions?**

Here, the Government argues that stakeholder schemes will be vastly superior. In common with personal pensions, they will be money-purchase arrangements.

They will be simple to understand and subject to tight regulatory controls - much cheaper than existing personal pension contracts - and you won't have to pay for "advice" when taking one out.

Stakeholder schemes ought to replace personal pensions for most people earning less than £20,000 a year. But for people earning more, the picture changes.

**So what should I do now?**

The Government's proposals are still at the consultation stage. Even so, there's no sense in waiting until stakeholder pensions are introduced: that will take at least a couple of years, and you need to save now.

However, it is highly likely that you will want to transfer your personal pension into a stakeholder one, so you need to find one where the up-front costs are virtually negligible. More on this at a later date.

**What if I already have a personal pension?**

In some cases, the way charges have already been levied on your contract may not make it worthwhile to transfer. We will discuss this in more detail at a later stage.

EUROPE HAS a new currency but not one you can actually touch. The euro is but a virtual currency for the next two years, until the notes and coins actually come into circulation. However, anybody who is used to handling their finances through the Internet is unlikely to be dismayed by the prospect of dealing with the virtual reality of the euro. The question is whether you really need to.

For all practical purposes, unless you have significant income or outgoings in euros, you are not likely to need a euro bank account. However, if you are a frequent traveller in Europe or you own a holiday home on the Continent, then you are probably going to be joining in the single currency sooner than the rest of us.

If you do decide you need a euro account, the new Citibank Euro Account, launched in December, may fit the bill. Through its

## INTERNET INVESTOR

ROBIN AMLOT

website, the bank is now offering customers the option of online euro current accounts and euro savings accounts. Current account customers get a Visa Delta card. Citibank is offering to clear cheques and drafts drawn in any EMU-participating country free of charge. This month, the bank is adding euro bankers drafts and euro time deposits accounts offering more attractive

interest rates in return for notice of withdrawals.

Citibank also has an EMU bulletin service on its global website which offers a pan-European perspective. It includes a euro calculator and some euro price comparisons and a list of FAQs - frequently asked questions. If you are looking for greater depth and more general information about the new single currency, check out EmuNet. The site offers a mix of daily news, official documents, practical information, commentary and analysis. It is not selling anything, other than the supposed benefits of the euro.

Of course, for the seriously rich, a Swiss bank is still the obvious port of call. Switzerland may not be part of the euro zone, but geographically it sits at the heart of what's already been called Euroland and that's also where UBS claims to be. It is in fact Europe's largest banking

group and offers detailed euro commentary for well-heeled private clients.

If you are not feeling the financial pinch after the festivities, Shelter (the charity for homeless people) is now able to receive donations over the Internet. The Charities Aid Foundation and MM Group are piloting a scheme enabling spontaneous and tax-effective donations to be made using a single, secure charity website. Secure donations to Shelter can be made by credit card and the CAF CharityCard for tax-effective giving.

**Citibank Euro Accounts:** [www.citibank.co.uk](http://www.citibank.co.uk)  
**Citibank EMU bulletins:** [www.citibank.com/uk/custinfo/index](http://www.citibank.com/uk/custinfo/index)  
**EmuNet:** [www.euro-cmu.co.uk/](http://www.euro-cmu.co.uk/)  
**UBS:** [www.ubs.com/pbeuro](http://www.ubs.com/pbeuro)  
**Charity:** [www.echarity.com](http://www.echarity.com)

Robin Amlot can be reached at [Robin.Amlot@uol.com](mailto:Robin.Amlot@uol.com)

# Who will you give your last PEP to?

Mercury - the all-round performer



**2%** PER ANNUM

This is the last year you'll be able to invest in a new PEP. So when deciding who to give your last one to, take a good look at Mercury Asset Management. With our wide choice of funds and an impressive long-term track record, we should have an investment that's right for you.

#### Invest with confidence

As part of one of the world's largest financial services groups, we already look after more

than £100 billion for over 50 of the UK's largest listed companies, as well as 100,000 private investors. Call us now or contact your financial adviser to find out more about Mercury, the all-round performer.

**CALL NOW 0500 0500 68**

**MERCURY**  
ASSET MANAGEMENT

IN 02 99

2% discount on the buying price of units for lump sum PEP investments of £1,000 or more into selected funds. ■ Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. ■ You can contribute to a PEP until 5.4.99, when it will be replaced by the new Individual Savings Account (ISA). Thereafter, PEPs will enjoy the same tax benefits as ISAs, including a tax credit of 10% redeemable for five years. ■ The value of investments and the income from them can fluctuate and are not guaranteed. You may not get back the amount you invest. ■ Issued by Mercury Asset Management Ltd, registered by IMRO, 33 King William Street, London EC4R 3AS, [www.mam.com/pep](http://www.mam.com/pep) ■ For your protection, telephone calls are usually recorded.

# Pensions spoken plainly.

Ask a straightforward question about our Personal Pensions - or even a complicated one - and we'll

give you a straightforward answer. Our experts will give an honest assessment of your current position,

answer questions or give advice - all by phone. What could be plainer than that?

Call, 8am-10pm, 7 days a week quoting ref: 288D031

**0345 6789 10**

or talk to your Independent Financial Adviser.

[www.scottishwidows.co.uk](http://www.scottishwidows.co.uk)

The value of units can go down as well as up. Future bonus rates are not guaranteed. Further details of our Pension Plans are included in the product literature, available from us on request. For your protection, your calls to Scottish Widows may be recorded or monitored and information or advice will only be provided on Scottish Widows products. Issued by Scottish Widows Fund and Life Assurance Society. Regulated by the Personal Investment Authority.

**SCOTTISH WIDOWS**

*Looking good for your pension.*



**BRIAN TORA**  
The reality is that the euro is as much a threat as an opportunity

## THE INDEPENDENT GUIDE TO FLEXIBLE MORTGAGES

by Nic Cicutti  
Sponsored by



RING 0800 550 551

Or send to: Independent Guide to Flexible Mortgages First Active Financial plc, Sir William Arkins House, Ashley Avenue, Epsom, Surrey KT18 5AS

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms

Address

Postcode Tel no. (inc code)

I would like to receive information about products and services from the First Active Group

### DIRECT LINE RATES

#### PERSONAL LOAN RATES

Direct Line Personal Loans  
FROM 10.1% APR

#### MORTGAGE RATE

Direct Line Standard Variable Mortgage Rate

VARIABLE RATE APR (variable)

7.14% 7.4%

#### SAVINGS RATES

Direct Line Instant Access Account

UP TO 6.50% GROSS\*

All rates correct at 6th January 1999.

0181 680 9966

PERSONAL LOANS

0181 649 9099

MORTGAGES

0181 667 1121

SAVINGS

Call at Direct Line savings ref. NINDB19



www.directline.com

For mortgages, written required. Written quotations on request. Subject to status. Mortgages and personal loans available in England, Scotland and Wales.

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

For savings, deposits and withdrawals via your bank account - allow 1 working days. The gross rate is the rate paid without deduction of income tax and is based on annual payment of interest. Calls recorded and randomly monitored. Direct Line and the red telephone on wheels are the trademarks of Direct Line Insurance plc. used with its permission.

# Star Performer. Don't miss the Grand Finale.

17.2%

average returns since launch

For PEPs, the curtain comes down in April 1999. So if you want to take advantage of one of the best performers available, time's running out.

Our European PEP has outperformed 97% of the competition over the last

5 years. It invests in a trust that has been 'AAA' rated in 6 out of the last 7 years\*, and had it been available as a PEP when launched, would have produced returns of 17.2% - free from UK Income Tax and Capital Gains Tax.

Whether you want to make a new investment, or transfer an existing PEP, make sure you don't miss the chance to enjoy our European PEP performance - while you still can.

For further details, return the coupon or call  
**0345 6789 10**

Quote reference no. 448DB2

**SCOTTISH WIDOWS**

www.scottishwidows.co.uk

2% discount on new lump sums and transfers before 5 April 1999.

Please return to: Scottish Widows, Direct Sales, PO Box 17036, FREEPOST SCO3744, Edinburgh EH3 0BR.

### BEST MORTGAGES

#### MORTGAGES

##### FIXED RATES (600+ entries)

##### Variable Rates (600+ entries)

##### CAPPED RATES (600+ entries)

##### INDEX RATES (600+ entries)

##### OTHER RATES (600+ entries)

#### Telephone number

#### % Rate and period

#### Max LTV %

#### Fee

#### Interest

#### Redemption Penalty

Nottingham BS	0800 302010	5.99% for 2 years	95%	-	Refund of valuation fee less MP Advances up to 65% - no MP Free ASU for 1 year	1st 2 yrs £43.433 months interest to 31.12.99 5% of sum repaid for 5 yrs 5% of sum repaid
Newcastle BS	0191 242468	5.45% to 31.3.99	95%	£245	-	1st 5 yrs 5% of sum repaid for 5 yrs 5% of sum repaid
West Bromwich BS	0121 500504	5.25% to 30.4.94	95%	£225	Free MP & ASU for 1 year £300 cash rebate	1st 5 yrs 5% of sum repaid for 5 yrs 5% of sum repaid
West Bromwich BS	0121 500504	5.25% to 30.4.91	95%	£225	-	1st 5 yrs 5% of sum repaid for 5 yrs 5% of sum repaid
Scarborough BS	0800 133149	5.25% for 3 years	95%	£225	For advances up to 95% no MP	1st 4 yrs 5% of sum repaid for 5 yrs 5% of sum repaid
Nottingham BS	01723 262626	5.25% for 4 years	95%	£225	No MP free legal insurance	1st 5 yrs 5% of sum repaid for 5 yrs 5% of sum repaid
Nottingham BS	0007 110055	5.69% for 12.02	95%	£225	For advances up to 95% no MP	1st 31.12.98 4.5% of sum repaid to 31.12.99 5% of sum repaid
Scarborough BS	0800 133149	5.69% for 4 years	95%	£225	For rate 250 for legal fees up to 95% no MP	1st 4 yrs 5% of sum repaid for 5 yrs 5% of sum repaid
Nottingham BS	01723 262626	5.70% for 5 years	95%	£225	Refund of valuation fee, no MP	1st 5 yrs 5% of sum repaid for 5 yrs 5% of sum repaid
Nottingham BS	0800 110055	5.85% to 1.2.92	95%	£225	Refund of fee & no MP	1st 5 yrs 5% of sum repaid for 5 yrs 5% of sum repaid
Scarborough BS	0800 133149	5.85% for 3 years	95%	£225	£300 cash rebate	1st 5 yrs 5% of sum repaid for 5 yrs 5% of sum repaid
Nottingham BS	01333 841000	6.15% for 5 years	95%	£225	No MP free legal & £250 rebate	1st 5 yrs 5% of sum repaid for 5 yrs 5% of sum repaid

### BEST BORROWING RATES

#### PERSONAL LOANS

##### UNSECURED Telephone APR %

##### Flood monthly payments on £5K over 3 yrs

	With Insurance	Without Insurance
Northumbrian BS	0345 421421 0.9% H	£182.37 £165.44
Tesco	0845 600616 12.0%	£165.04 £164.81
Direct Line	0161 500 5000 12.0%	£163.75 £163.36

#### OVERDRAFTS

	Authorised	Unauthorised
Aliance & Leicesters	0500 955265	0.95% 12.0%
Nottingham BS	0800 302010	0.97% 12.0%
Abbey National	0800 311774	1.05% 12.0%

#### CREDIT CARDS

Telephone	Card Type	Rate % per	APR %	Annual Fee	Interest free period	Max Increase
Co-operative Bank	0800 103000	0.495%	5.80%	N/A	0 days	£200
People's Bank	0845 2610255	0.505%	6.80%	N/A	56 days	£200
BSI Awards	0800 077770	0.505%	6.80%	N/A	56 days	£200

#### GOLD CARDS

Telephone	Card Type	Rate % per	APR %	Annual Fee	Interest free period	Max Increase
Co-operative Bank	0800 103000	0.495%	5.80%	N/A	0 days	£200
Co-operative Bank	0845 2121212	0.505%	10.25%	£12.00	46 days	£200

#### STORE CARDS

Telephone	Payment by direct debit	Payment by other methods
John Lewis	1.35%	18.0%
Debenhams	1.55%	25.0%
Marks & Spencer	1.67%	26.3%

\* A minimum of 10% of the gross rate. Holders of comprehensive motor insurance policy or lender's existing customers

APR - Annual percentage rate

ASU - Accident, sickness and unemployment assistance

B+C - Buildings and contents insurance

H - Higher rate applies if insurance not arranged

UV - Loan to value

MP - Mortgage Protection Premium

R - Introductory rate for a limited period

U - Unemployment Insurance

W - Withdrawals via Bank Cheque System

F - Fixed rate (all other rates variable)

N - Not rate

P - By post only

All rates are shown gross and are subject to change without notice.

Source: MONEYFACTS 0163 476476

\* Confirmation is taken 30.4.98

All rates subject to change without notice.

Source: MONEYFACTS 0163 476476

# Want to invest? Read all about it

There are plenty of books that will promise to make you rich quick. But which give genuinely valuable investment advice?

**R**eaders often ask me where they can go to find a simple introduction to the principles of successful investment – one that gives an all-round picture of the objectives of managing your money in language that is both concise and simple.

The answer is that it is hard to find such a single-volume book. There are now quite a few excellent books about active stock-picking (which, in truth, is just a small subset of the overall subject of investment) and one or two good ones about financial planning, but nothing that gives what, in days long gone, might have been called something like *The Intelligent Person's Guide to Overall Investment Policy*.

Jim Slater's *Investment Made Easy* is a typically clear and concise read, though again with a slant towards his own specialty of stock-picking. Berne Cohen's books are also well planned and presented. I must declare an interest in that both

these books are published by my own publishers, Orion. I am also an admirer of Stephen Lofthouse's book, *Fixing Your Finances* (published by John Wiley), which is nothing if not comprehensive and clear-headed. FT Pitman also publishes a series of excellent but quite weighty books on many different aspects of investment.

The one book that I think imparts the most wisdom per page is, however, perhaps inevitably, written by an American, Charles Ellis. If you held me up against a wall and asked me which single book has most to teach the average investor about the business of managing money, I would have to say that it is his book on investment policy. The first edition appeared many years ago but has just been revised for the third time, and reissued with new material, under the title of *Winning the Loser's Game*.

In the best sense of the word, the book is a classic and, while directed primarily at a US audience, will

reward anyone in this country just as well. The book is published by McGraw-Hill and can be found in serious bookshops if you have difficulty finding it, contact the specialist investment publisher Harriman House, in Petersfield, on 01730 233870, who should be able to find and post you a copy.

What makes *Winning the Loser's Game* so good? Well, part of it, I think, has to do with the fact that the book was originally written for professional investment managers and their employers, such as pension fund trustees.

Mr Ellis has been an investment consultant for many years, and this book is a serious attempt to sum up the state of the world's knowledge about the practice of successful investment management for those for whom managing money is a mainstream business.

It therefore feels unimpulsive to promise its readers that reading the book will make them rich quickly – something which most publishers

sensible decisions that will preserve and grow your wealth in real terms over the medium and longer term.

The skill and art of it is as much about avoiding making mistakes or irrational or inconsistent decisions as it is about finding that wonder stock or money-making scheme that is going to transform your fortunes overnight. If your investment strategy consists of putting all your money on the National Lottery, and doing nothing else, then this book is probably not for you.

The book is not long – it runs to barely 140 pages of text, and is liberally sprinkled with illustrations – but it covers all the main aspects of investment in a marvellously concise and clear-cut way. It includes advice on how to set realistic investment objectives, how to think about risk and when and where to seek advice.

If anyone has any doubts about the wisdom of choosing an index fund for at least part of their portfolio, I defy them to retain those

doubts after reading Ellis's masterly discussion of the real nature of stock-market risk. His demonstration of why investment has become a "loser's game" (a world in which you can prosper only by taking advantage of other people's mistakes, not through your own efforts) reads as powerfully today as it did when it was first published more than 25 years ago.

The key to success is knowing your own personality and shaping your investment decisions to match your needs and temperament. This, he reminds us, is a responsibility that only we ourselves can take on. It cannot be delegated.

But nor need it be an onerous task so long as we arm ourselves with a basic understanding of how and why the investment world works. This is something which, I am glad to see, the Government and the Financial Services Authority are both now trying to spread through various educational initiatives.

If they can do half as well as ex-

plaining what the eternal verities of investment are as Mr Ellis has done in his book, I will be very surprised.

**Jonathan Davis** is the author of *'Money Makers – the Stockmarket Secrets of Britain's Top Ten Professional Investment Managers'*, published by Orion Business Books. It is now available in paperback, price £9.99.

*'Winning the Loser's Game'*, normally costing £19.99, is available to readers of *The Independent* at a special discount price of £14.99 (plus £2 p&p) from Harriman House. Call 01730 233870 or fax 01730 233880 for Visa, Mastercard or American Express orders. Or write to Harriman House Ltd, 43 Chapel Street, Petersfield GU32 3DY. Quote the code number (9397) or the title and mention that you want to take up the Independent Offer. Alternatively, go to the following website <http://www.global-investor.com/bookshop> and type 9397 in the search bar



**JONATHAN DAVIES**

*The key to investment success is knowing your own personality*

seem to assume is essential if you are to sell any kind of book about money to the retail market.

Yet the reality, as Charles Ellis demonstrates superbly, is that most of investment is not about making money quickly. It is about making

## LOOSE CHANGE

**TU FUND** Managers is waiving initial charges on lump sum investments into its European and British PEPs. This also applies to transfers from other PEPs. Call 0800 435 810.

**LEGAL & GENERAL**, the insurer, is offering a 2 per cent discount for six months on variable rates paid on its Flexible Reserve mortgages. New customers will pay 4.8 per cent. The current variable rate is 6.8 per cent. Call 0870 0100338.

**ALLIANCE & LEICESTER** is giving away mini-FM radios to customers who open a Cashcard account. The deal is open to young people aged between 11 and 17. Details from any A&L branch.

**MARTIN CURRIE**, fund managers, is launching an offshore fund investing in Japan, taking advantage of that country's perceived recovery. The fund has an initial charge of 5 per cent. Minimum investment is \$5,000. Call 0808 1002125.

**EXETER FUND** Managers is offering 1 per cent on investments into its Monthly Income and Growth Portfolio funds, held in the company's

Chameleon PEP. Both funds invest in a range of Exeter investment trusts. Call 0800 807807.

**ABERDEEN PROLIFIC** is offering a 1 to 1.5 per cent discount to investors who invest up to the maximum for its final PEPs and its new Individual Savings Accounts. The offer will give a 1.5 per cent discount for a £6,000 investment, and 1 per cent for a subsequent £7,000 investment into an Aberdeen Prolific ISA.

The company offers a 0.75 per cent discount on ISAs for investors into its PEPs. Initial charges are 4.25 per cent. Call 0345 886 666.

**HALIFAX** is offering discounts for existing customers who take out one of its loans. For those with a Halifax mortgage, whose salary is paid into one of the bank's accounts, rates are 12.9 per cent APR. For customers of less than six months' standing, rates are 17.9 per cent.

**JOHN CHARCOL**, mortgage brokers, is offering a fixed mortgage at 5.89 per cent until March 2001. It carries no redemption penalties and has an arrangement fee of £300. Call 0800 718191.

\*Source: Microplus/LGIM, on an offer to bid funds based on all PEP charges with gross income re-invested in an 01/11/95 Legal & General since launch to 01/11/99. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. From 01/01/99 tax credits on UK dividend distributions will only be able to be reclaimed by PEPs at a reduced rate of 10%. Both capital and income values may go down as well as up and you may not get back the amount invested. All comparisons of cost apply to PEPs investing wholly in unit trusts. Full written details are available on request. All statements are correct as at 01/01/99. The Government have announced that contributions can only be made to PEPs until April 1999. From that date a new tax-privileged savings vehicle, the Individual Savings Account (ISA) will be available. Legal & General (Direct) Limited, Registered in England No. 279280 Registered Office: Temple Court, 11 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4N 4EP. Representative only of the Legal & General marketing group, members of which are regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and IMRO for the purposes of recommending, advising on and selling life assurance and investment products bearing Legal & General's name.

## The Index-Tracking PEP

### The All-Share Tracking PEP that has performed the best

**INVEST NOW**  
to make the most of your final year's PEP allowance

Investment performance since launch\*  
November 95 to January 99

Provider	Annual Management Charge	Growth
Legal & General	0.50%	72.56%
Dresdner RCM	0.50%	69.35%
Virgin	1.00%	68.81%
Gartmore	1.00%	68.58%
Average UK Income & Growth Trust	-	56.61%
<b>NO initial charges</b> <b>NO withdrawal fee</b> <b>0.5% annual management charge</b>		

A glance at the table will show you how the Legal & General All-Share Index-Tracking PEP has outperformed all its major All-Share Index-Tracking competitors since its launch.

It follows the FTSE All-Share Index. This Index reflects the performance of the entire stockmarket, so it reduces the risk of being over-exposed to shares which under-perform and lessen your return. In fact, a lump sum of £6,000 invested in this PEP at launch would now be worth £10,353\* compared to just £9,396\* in the average UK Income & Growth Trust.

With no initial charges deducted, more of your money is invested at the outset for maximum growth potential, there are no withdrawal fees and with an annual management charge of 0.5% – the value for money is outstanding. So make the most of today's opportunities. For further details (including information on our monthly saving option) call now.

Visit our web site at [www.LandG.com](http://www.LandG.com)

Find out more now –  
phone free

0500 11 66 22

8am to 8pm weekdays,  
9am to 5pm weekends.

For your protection,  
calls are usually recorded and randomly monitored

Please quote ref: D5DJ01

Don't be shy of retiring. Boost your company pension now.

No matter when you plan to retire you will want to be able to enjoy life. But will your company pension allow you to do all that you would like?

To receive the maximum pension available you would typically have to be part of the same company pension scheme for 40 years. Moreover, if you have changed your job, even once, it could dramatically reduce your pension.

Topping up your company pension with an Equitable Free-Standing Additional Voluntary Contributions Scheme can help make up the difference so that you can afford to enjoy life when you have more time to do so.

You are eligible for tax relief at the highest rate you pay.

Remember that the value of tax relief available will depend on individual circumstances and current legislation can change in the event of death.

What's more, we don't believe in paying commission to third parties for the introduction of new business, so please contact us direct.

If you would like more information by post and by telephone call us on (0990) 38 48 58, or return the coupon below.

[www.equitable.co.uk](http://www.equitable.co.uk)

For your security your telephone call may be recorded. Information will only be given on Equitable group products. Regulated by the Personal Investment Authority.

THE EQUITABLE LIFE FREEPOST, Weston Street, AYLESBURY, Bucks HP12 7HR. I would welcome information on The Equitable's Free-Standing AVC plan.

NAME: Mr Mrs Miss Ms

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel. (Office): \_\_\_\_\_ Tel. (Home): \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Tel. No. Home: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel. No. Work: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Tel. No. Home: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel. No. Work: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Tel. No. Home: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel. No. Work: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Tel. No. Home: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel. No. Work: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Tel. No. Home: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel. No. Work: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Tel. No. Home: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel. No. Work: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Tel. No. Home: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel. No. Work: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Tel. No. Home: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel. No. Work: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Tel. No. Home: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel. No. Work: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Tel. No. Home: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel. No. Work: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Tel. No. Home: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel. No. Work: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Tel. No. Home: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel. No. Work: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Tel. No. Home: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel. No. Work: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Tel. No. Home: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel. No. Work: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Tel. No. Home: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel. No. Work: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

</

# What every well dressed home will be wearing in '99

An ice-blue modular lamp? Or an African milking stool in aubergine? Ten design gurus make their predictions



**L**ately urbanite, cosy homegirl or hedonistic glamour kitten: whatever you see yourself as, your home is a certain reflection of your character, for better or worse. When it comes to decorating your own space, attempting to keep up with the Happens and Hempels of this world, and the sophisticated lifestyle statements made by lacquerware bowls (so 1998, darling), can be both exhausting and expensive.

In the ruthlessly chin field of interior design, everyone has their own ideas – so why not make 1999 the year to start respecting your home environment and find out whether you're a dedicated minimalist, a sworn magpie or something in between. Who cares if fluffy pink lampshades are out this year? The main thing is to have some fun – either that, or you could play it stylishly safe and follow the advice of the style gurus:

#### Caroline Burstein-Collis

Director, Browns Living

"Unlike with your clothes, you can't change your home's wardrobe every year, but in 1999 we can afford to loosen up a little. Interiors have recently been very clean and minimalist, and, although this helps to clear the mind, it would be good to have a little more colour through items such as plants and cushions. Having said this, everyone is different and some people enjoy being surrounded by familiar clutter. The important thing is to make sure you have things in your house that you love."

#### Ross DIXON

Head of design at Habitat

"The trouble with homes is that you can't really talk in years, as you can with fashion; but there are several trends at the moment. The first is a popularity for modular products – those that you buy several of and stack together yourself: storage, screens, flooring and even lighting. Another trend is for things that are multi-functional. People are constantly bom-

barded with a kind of fantasy world of how to live – but the reality is very different. To be realistic about what their home is like or could be like, people will be choosing items that are essentially practical – steps that fold to become a chair; or loft lamps that can be hooked on to any area of a house.

"I hope that people will feel modern as we approach the millennium. At the turn of the last century the public was apprehensive about the future and tended towards comforting, organic shapes such as those of Art Nouveau. This time people will be more confident and proud of embracing technology with distinctive lighting, hi-fi and cooking gadgets. There may also be a trend for futuristic retro design."

#### Tricia Guild

Head of Designers Guild

"Natural and interesting textures in white, pale brown and ecru will be balanced with pale iridescent colours of aqua, chalk grey, pale olives and smoky mauve. There will be no frills or clutter but, instead, clear, clean lines together with vivacious images from oriental inspiration."

#### Tessi Rodgers

Editor, 'Elle Decoration'

"The whole nation has become more home-savvy. First it was sorting out your clothes, then the interior decoration, and in 1999 it will be the turn of the garden. The idea of designing an outdoor room will materialise, with furniture that you can wheel in and out. Attention will be given to sheds, huts and garden hideaways as well as the layout of the lawn. Conversely, nature will extend into the home as people turn back to real fires in the house."

"White will still be the main colour but it will be a soft, new-dawn, spacey kind of white rather than a bleak white. Accessories will still verge on the modern ethnic. Where lots of modern design in shops such as Browns Living and Nicole Fehri takes its inspiration from items such as African milking stools and simplifies this down, in 1999 we will be looking for the real thing."



A clutterless future, top, at Designers Guild (0171-243 7300); tea caddy cum saucer from The Home (01274 530770); textured linen, above, and controversially pale wood, below, from the Conran Collection (0171-399 0710)

#### Sarah Kean

Co-owner, The Cross

"The theme for this year starts with some fantastic sap-green glassware from Belgium and lots of leaf-inspired plates – tropical leaves, lilies and waterlilies and so on. At the other end there will be lots of pale colours, including leather pouffes in

pretty shades of ice blue, pale eau-de-Nil and off-whites. Into summer, there'll be a permanent holiday feel with deep pink, bright turquoise and canary yellow."

#### Robin and Patricia Silver

Owners, The Home

"The most important thing this year will be that people are looking for quality and will be willing to pay more for things that are well designed than for things that are a bit junky. Colours will be subdued and solid rather than bright, plastic-like and transparent; and dark, grainy wenge-wood – which has a rather African feel to it – will be more popular than sycamore, maple and other paler woods."

"Kitchens will be more prominent in the home. Last year, having watched the River Café cookery programmes, everyone wanted the double-handled mezzalunas, but found them difficult to operate. This year there is a new kind that you hold in one hand and, for an inexperienced cook, they are much easier to handle. Since tea is set to overtake coffee in popularity, there will be all kinds of tea-making and tea-drinking equipment in the shops."

#### Rupert Thomas

Deputy editor, 'World of Interiors'

"1999 will probably see an emphasis on hand-made, individual pieces. As the general public's levels of luxury have increased – everyone can now pop into Debenhams to buy a pashmina shawl – there is no clear definition between the top and the middle of the market, and so the top end is having to distinguish itself by returning to the crafts tradition."

"The fascination with early Modernism will probably continue; but now that you can buy versions of Modernist designs everywhere from IKEA to Viaduct, the theme is less romantic than it was a year ago."

"The main thing is that you should feel relaxed within your home, so have a bit of everything you like in there. The new tendency is for people to raid every century for the best it provided and put all the different pieces together in one house."

#### Rebecca Toone

Accessory buyer, Heal's

"Whites, greys and creams with accents of darker colours such as aubergine and navy will be the theme for 1999. Texture is still very important, and the use of natural materials – wool, leather, suede, linen, slate and metals. There will be no coloured patterns as such; ceramics will be mostly white with raised designs."

#### Sophie Holloway

Buyer, contemporary furniture, Liberty

"There is a trend towards all things Scandinavian and Liberty has bought into those countries, renowned for their beauty and creativity. The pieces for 1999 are typically Scandinavian in form, material and craftsmanship, and are both functional and aesthetic. Bought to fulfil the individual's spatial needs, the resulting collection is simple, high quality and natural with a nod to architectural influence."

"I believe there is also a trend for beautifully crafted and individual pieces for the home. This is why Liberty has revived its 'One-Off' department, which opens next month. The idea is that the home is a sanctuary that surrounds us with beautiful objects to inspire and give pleasure to the mind and body."

#### Louise Chidgey

Fabrics buyer, and Jill Webb, furniture buyer, The Conran Shop

"Colours around the home this year will be aubergine, indigo, Indian red, eggshell and eau-de-Nil, and all fabrics will be textured. Sheer linens and organzas will have fine details within the weave of the fabric rather than patterns."

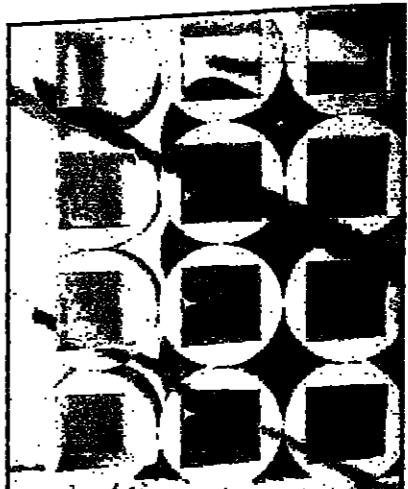
"Over the last two years, furniture trends have swayed towards dark woods but, despite changing trends, The Conran Shop continues to select clean, minimalist, high-quality furniture in blond wood with natural finishes."

"The belief here is that we should follow our own line and let other people copy us, rather than the other way round."

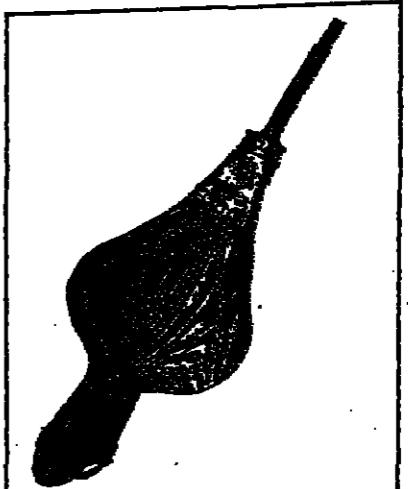
REHANNON BATTEN

## SIX OF THE BEST

THINGS TO BUY IN 1999



Ikel bookcase by Lloyd Schwann, from £3510, Viaduct (0171-278 8456)



Wood, leather and iron Moroccan bellow, £28.95, Graham & Green (0171-727 4594)



Freeform vase in cream, £26.95, Habitat (0645 334433 for nearest store)



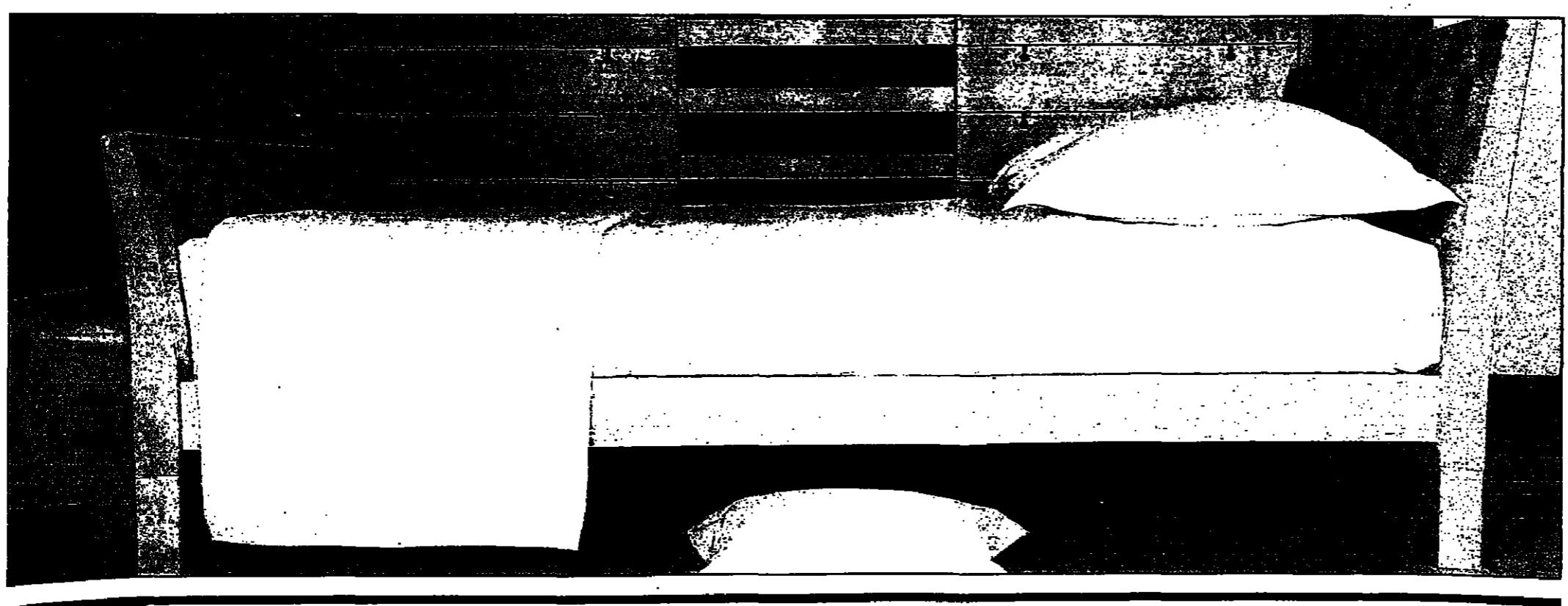
Pallio bed, £599 for 4'6", The Iron Bed Company (01243 778999)



Nem stool in indigo, £39, Habitat (0645 334433 for nearest store)



White linen sheet sets, from £213, the Volga Linen Company at Graham & Green (0171-727 4594)



## I WANT TO OWN... A PERSONAL ORGANISER

## The keys to an organised life

Some people couldn't organise the proverbial piss-up in a brewery. It's this sort of person who makes the inebriated pre-January gesture of resolving to change him- or herself overnight: to fill in the tax form on time, make sure the MOT never lapses, invest profits prudently and pay all bills by direct debit. None of which, if these people are anything like me, they ever get round to doing.

So if you want to get off to the right start but you, too, find yourself scribbling all your January appointments in the small space allocated for 31 December 1998, then you could do worse than consider investing in the following items:

## KEYS ARE GOOD

Name: Psion Series 5  
Price: £370 to £420 in a Mulberry leather-bound case, from Dixons  
Stockists: 0990 143050  
Description: The Psion Series 5 is the best pocket-sized palmtop PC on the market. Not the swishiest in the stockpile - in fact its grey-scale LCD screen makes it look rather antiquated - and it doesn't have the fastest processor, but it is designed with practicality first and gimmicks second. Hence, it's not sold on its ability to cruise the Internet while on a bus to Barnet (who would really want to?), but on its solid personal-organiser capabilities (appointments, phone numbers, expenses), and business applications (spreadsheets, bar charts, sketching). Most important, though, is the fact that you can type on it without your fingers snapping off. Until the next evolutionary step for word processors, when we all speak to machines instead of type on them, a decent keyboard remains the essential element in the man-machine interface, and none of its peers matches the Series 5 for comfort. The specs: 8MB Ram, 6Mb Rom; Epos 32 operating system; spellcheck; thesaurus; calculator; recorder; sketch pad  
Style: \*\*\*

Any others worth considering? Hewlett Packard's 380LX (£599, 0990 474747). Although it has a less user-friendly keyboard, it does have a brighter, 256-colour screen and a bumper 16Mb memory, and runs Windows CE 2.0, an abridged version of Windows 95 (something you really could cruise the Net with). Psion, meanwhile, has also upgraded its series 3 model, the 3MX, with a faster chip (28MHz rather than its predecessor's 7.5MHz), which retails

## PILOTS OF THE FUTURE

Name: 3Com Palm III  
Price: £199.99  
Stockists: 0880 7311064

Description: The previous small metal packets are basically micro PCs, but you may prefer something that works as an adjunct to your PC, rather than trying to emulate it. For those of you who don't want to write the next *Trainspotting* or *The Horse Whisperer* on the way to work, a keyboard-free PDA (Personal Digital Assistant) may be more useful. 3Com's Palm III is under 5in tall, looks a bit like a Star Trek communicator (it doesn't everything these days), can store 6,000 names and addresses and five-years' worth of appointments, and can be written on with a special stylus.

The specs: 2Mb memory; infrared data transfer; PC docking facility.

Anything else worth considering? Philips' Nino 300 (£300, 0800 961445) may seem steeply priced for a posh phone/appointments book, but it justifies why it's more expensive than the Palm III by boasting twice its memory, being twice as stylish (a nice, matt silver finish), having a nifty docking bay and being the first PDA to operate using Windows CE. Extra good points include neat short-cut command buttons and Pocket Communicator software that allows you to tell the machine to perform certain basic functions. If Darwinian theory can be applied to machines, then it seems likely that the future of digital organisers will be evolving from this particular machine's DNA.

Style: \*\*\*

## OLD FAITHFULS

Name: Mulberry Planner  
Price: £195  
Stockists: 071-491 3900

Description: If you still wonder why anyone would want an electronic organiser, when it's transparently quicker both to jot down and look up phone numbers and appointments in a book, then look no further than a Mulberry Planner, crafted in crocodile-styled Congo leather. Some of its nice touches

include inner sleeve credit-card slots and a zip pocket, but it's in the stationary pack that the planner really excels. As well as the usual address and notes, Mulberry has included fact sheets with such essential information as the international dialling code of the United Arab Emirates, the date of the Henley Regatta, and how to start your first wine cellar. It's big, bulky and backbreaking heavy, but worth the extra effort.

Style: \*\*\*

## FINISHING TOUCHES

● Writing class: a good personal organiser requires an equally good writing implement. The Mont Blanc 14-carat Meisterstück Classique (£165, 0181-232 3000 for stockists) has a streamlined feel and a piston converter to take ink cartridges for those who have never got to grips with inkwells.

● TV quick: The Casio CMD40 (£60, 0181-450 9131) is the couch potato's ultimate organisational tool, with its infra red remote control to operate your hi-fi, the TV and the VCR.

● Digital Post-It note: Always thinking up million-dollar ideas on the bus? Like silly gimmicks? Sony's ICD-V21 (£60, 0990 111999) digital notetaker is for you. Designed like a cartoon bubble, it records up to 99 short messages.

● Making light work: Forget fumbling for keys in the dark after you drop them in the car park. Solve the problem with a Hermès credit-card-sized halogen beam, neatly presented in a stitched leather envelope (£85, call 0171-823 1014 for details).

● Credit control: Your wallet has recently taken a battering, so upgrade the thing you keep your cash, receipts and used lottery scratch cards in with a sleek, black executive wallet from Land Rover (£45, stockists 0181-202 5454), designed more like a Chelsea boot than a 4x4's rear end.

SHAWN PHILLIPS  
DEPUTY EDITOR, 'ZM'

anything with "try me free" screaming from a packet has to be a good thing and this definitely is.

Throughout January, Maidwell is offering a free 200g or 400g cheddar-style cheese to anyone in the UK. The deal is that you buy the cheese - around £1.25 and £2.49 for the two sizes - from your local supermarket, keep your receipt and the pack's promotional label and then

ANYTHING WITH "try me free" screaming from a packet has to be a good thing and this definitely is.

Clyde Combustion's tubular steel and cast-iron radiators and towel rails are classics that have stood the test of time. For their FKR and Windsor radiators a site-painting service is available, but three other styles are available in 33 colours. The "Doric" radiator (from £145) is the perfect choice for simplicity. There are only 10 sizes, and you can have any colour - as long as it's white.

DIONA GREGORY

Bisque, 244 Belsize Road, London NW6 4BT, 0171-328 2225 (for nationwide stockists call 01225 469244); Clyde Combustion, Cox Lane, Chessington, Surrey KT9 1SL (0181-391 2020); Farol Radiators, Tropical House, Charlwood Road, East Grinstead, West Sussex RH19 2HJ (01342 305420); Huddevad, Britain, Bridge House, Bridge Street, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey KT12 1AL (01932 247 835); MHS Radiators, 35 Nobel Square, Burnt Mills Industrial Estate, Basildon, Essex SS13 1LT (01268 591 010).

send them both to the address on the label to have your money refunded by cheque. Even the most

## SHOP TALK



pernickety cheese buffs who don't like the idea of buying anything less than a slab of real farmhouse cheddar, freshly sliced, from their local cheese specialist, will welcome Maidwell into their fridges.

Perfect for melting over toast or reclining atop a Jacob's cracker, Maidwell is really worth a try, and then another - especially since it comes packaged in a useful resealable pack.

## GOOD THING

IF YOU didn't get a pair of Pauline Burrows pyjamas in your Christmas stocking, now is the time to take action and buy yourself some. Made from fine Italian cotton and hand-finished using traditional methods, they are available in white or black and cost £225 a pair - just the thing for lazy weekends. The pyjamas are available on 0171-261 1988.

## MAD THING

TO BE a stylish swigger you need to find your trademark tipple. And it's time to forget the clichéd glamour of champagne, Martini or absinthe and indulge your secret Tia Maria side instead with a bottle of Stone's Cream. Launched last September and based on Stone's Ginger Wine and fresh cream, it costs £1.49 a bottle from all major supermarkets.



## CHECK IT OUT

## RADIATORS



The industrially-inspired "Flowform" radiator from Bisque

WHEN IT comes to radiators you're either an exhibitionist or you're not. The basic design of this heating staple has remained virtually unchanged over the years, but with all the styles, colours and sizes now on the market, you can choose radiators that will demand attention or fade into the background.

The eye-catching "Hot Springs" radiator from Bisque, inspired by a ring binder, is a continuous steel-tube coil. Made in England, it is one of the Millennium Products selected to be on display in the Millennium Dome, available in three sizes - 0.6m, 1.2m and 1.8m - and 15 colours. Prices start at £350 for the smallest size in white. The design of Bisque's round and chunky "Flowform" radiator is based on traditional industrial heating elements.

Stacked circular fins maximise the surface area of the radiator while ensuring a compact shape overall - perfect for keeping your feet warm. These are available in four lengths from 0.5m to 2m (from £139). Another new model that is sure to become a design classic is Bisque's "Cobratherm" "Plan" design cunningly pro-

tects a single tube snakes asymmetrically up the wall, ending in a clever ball finial, perfect for hanging a bathrobe on to warm from £387. It can be supplied in white, chrome or 1,600 other colours - the entire Dulux range, in fact. It is also available in an electric-only version - useful if you don't have a central heating system.

Farol Radiators' designs are more utilitarian than Bisque's, but extremely practical. Its aluminium radiators are made in sections 80mm wide, allowing incredible flexibility in size.

But, if you're seeking a radiator that will blend seamlessly into its surroundings, then the Huddevad catalogue is inspiring. Flicking through the sleek pages, it feels like playing "hunt the radiator" among the photos of minimalist interiors.

To ensure a perfect match with your paintwork, the Huddevad steel radiators are available in any colour produced by a paint manufacturer; or alternatively, ready primed so that you can decorate the radiator *in situ*.

The simple, flat-fronted

towel radiator A single tube snakes asymmetrically up the wall, ending in a clever ball finial, perfect for hanging a bathrobe on to warm from £387. It can be supplied in white, chrome or 1,600 other colours - the entire Dulux range, in fact. It is also available in an electric-only version - useful if you don't have a central heating system.

Farol Radiators' designs are more utilitarian than Bisque's, but extremely practical. Its aluminium radiators are made in sections 80mm wide, allowing incredible flexibility in size.

But, if you're seeking a radiator that will blend seamlessly into its surroundings, then the Huddevad catalogue is inspiring. Flicking through the sleek pages, it feels like playing "hunt the radiator" among the photos of minimalist interiors.

To ensure a perfect match with your paintwork, the Huddevad steel radiators are available in any colour produced by a paint manufacturer; or alternatively, ready primed so that you can decorate the radiator *in situ*.

The simple, flat-fronted

flat panel radiators (eight heights, 340 lengths, two depths, from £120 for the outer case) are ideal, as part of their surface will exceed 43°C.

To replace or reinstate period radiators, "Liberty" column radiators from MHS Radiators are ideal. Cast in original, intricate, Victorian scrolled relief patterns, and supplied in an authentic gunmetal primer finish (from £220), they are compatible with both old and new heating systems. Alternatively, architectural salvage yards are a good source of reclaimed original cast-iron

radiators; but make sure you remember to get them pressure tested before fitting them.

Clyde Combustion's tubular

steel and cast-iron radiators and towel rails are classics that have stood the test of time. For their FKR and Windsor radiators a site-painting service is available, but three other styles are available in 33 colours. The "Doric" radiator (from £145) is the perfect choice for simplicity. There are only 10 sizes, and you can have any colour - as long as it's white.

DIONA GREGORY

Bisque, 244 Belsize Road, London NW6 4BT, 0171-328 2225 (for nationwide stockists call 01225 469244); Clyde Combustion, Cox Lane, Chessington, Surrey KT9 1SL (0181-391 2020); Farol Radiators, Tropical House, Charlwood Road, East Grinstead, West Sussex RH19 2HJ (01342 305420); Huddevad, Britain, Bridge House, Bridge Street, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey KT12 1AL (01932 247 835); MHS Radiators, 35 Nobel Square, Burnt Mills Industrial Estate, Basildon, Essex SS13 1LT (01268 591 010).

send them both to the address on the label to have your money refunded by cheque. Even the most



## PROPERTY

Buying property for children at university not only assures them a decent home but is a good investment for you. By Mary Wilson

# Honey, I bought a house for the kids

**E**very year, parents go through the same trauma - where are their children, who are going off to college or university, going to live?

For their first year of university life, that place will usually be in the halls of residence. After that time, the student is likely to want a little more independence.

Of course, they can rent digs, but these are not cheap - £70 a week on average in London, £30-£40 a week in more rural areas - and often very basic. An alternative option is for parents to buy a property for their child close to their university or college. This can either be used by the child alone, or - if it has enough rooms - let to other students, whose rent can be used to pay off some or all of the mortgage.

But by the time the idea is considered seriously, the second year has started, or is about to start, and it barely seems to make sense to embark on a property purchase with so little time left.

For that reason, if you want to buy, now - while your child is still in halls - is the time to do it. Among other things, it is now possible both to compare life in halls with that outside and to have a reasonable idea of the best (and cheapest) areas to live in.

And you don't have to do it on your own. In Bristol, four sets of parents have joined forces to buy a house for their children to live in while at university. Eight friends, who have now finished their first year, got together and decided they were prepared to commit themselves to signing

up for a year's lease. And they hope to stay together until the end of their courses.

Half the number persuaded their parents to go into the joint venture, the other half will be renting their rooms. "It was a nightmare to start with," says Carol and David Bullen, one of the sets of parents buying.

"It took a long time to find the right house, as anything we heard of sold before we got the chance to see it. Then it was very difficult organising the mortgage with four signatures, but we managed it. We hoped to find somewhere back in May but, as happened, we completed on the property just two weeks before our daughter had to move in."

The syndicate has bought a seven-bedroom house with a small garden, which was in good condition but needed a bit of work doing to it.

As the families come from Norwich, Hull, Birmingham and Exeter, a considerable amount of organisation was needed to get the house ready for habitation.

"One of the parents has been doing the plumbing, putting in another bathroom; another helped with the electrics; and we have all mucked in, painting and buying second-hand furniture at auction houses," says Carol.

"We have all got on fine and, after the initial traumas, it really has been quite fun. I am very pleased with the outcome as rents are going up all the time and at least we know our children are living somewhere decent."

She reckons that the rents from the four tenants will pay almost all



David and Carol Bullen at home in the house they and other parents bought for their student children

Chris Jones

the mortgage, with the parents making up a small shortfall. "And if there is only a 2 per cent increase in house prices over two years we will make a small profit when we sell," she says.

Another couple of students, brother and sister, Dean and Dhalia Khanna, can thank their parents for giving them the chance to live in a nice flat while they are at university in London. Dean, who is 18 years old, has just started university while Dhalia has up till now lived in halls of residence.

"Our parents have bought us a two-bedroom apartment at Barratt's development in East Harding Street, EC4. It is perfect for us, only

a short distance away from the universities," says Dean. Pemberton House is a conversion of a six-storey former office building into 39 one- and two-bedroom apartments.

children attend university," says Rowena Wild, managing director of Chestertons Residential. "By running the property as a business, and renting out rooms to other

managing the house to their children as it gives them excellent commercial responsibility and experience."

When the course is finished, the parents hope to have their investment intact, either to continue letting out or to sell. University towns always need homes for their periodically changing students, teachers and ancillary staff, so even if the worst happened and the property market collapsed, there should still be a guaranteed demand for rental accommodation.

"You get a very good return on this sort of property," says James Wilson, a buying agent for Lane Fox.

"And the way the market is at the moment, it is unlikely to rise much

in the next six months. It is a very good opportunity to buy for investment purposes."

And should you decide to run the property as a business, then the ARLA (Association of Residential Letting Agents) Buy-to-Let scheme is available, which makes it far easier for individuals to buy property for investment purposes. The scheme is just into its third year and, over the last two years, more than 13,000 Buy-to-Let mortgages have been arranged.

Chestertons Residential, 0171-262 5060; Lane Fox, 0171-499 4785; sales office at Pemberton House, 0171-583 2237; ARLA helpline, 01923 896555

## Architect's brownfield of dreams

The house that John built is a shining example of how derelict land can be exploited. By Martin Thompson

**I**MAGINE a rectangular hunk of Cheddar with one corner pared off. That's the best way to describe the awkward end-of-garden plot that John Hart discovered tucked behind the university boathouses on the River Cam.

In this narrow space, measuring a mere 150 square metres, this imaginative Cambridge architect has designed and built for his own use a spacious two-bedroom house with garden and garage.

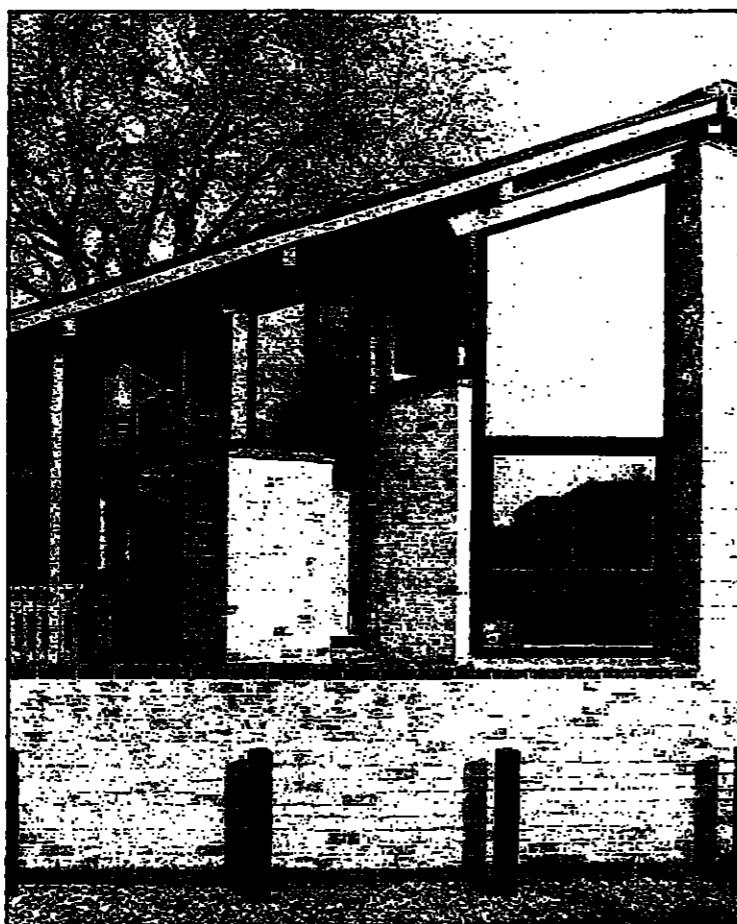
With its low hanging eaves, court-yard garden and fusing use of warm materials, such as honey-coloured brick and European redwood, the Hart house combines a Japanese feel with that of an English medieval building. By taking advantage of every available inch in a highly imaginative way, it inspires new standards in urban housing. And all for around £20,000, excluding the cost of land.

For Mr Hart, the culmination of years of ingenuity and hard slog came in September 1988 when the Royal Institute of British Architects (Riba) gave the house one of its prestigious Architects' Awards - a well deserved pat on the back, not only for its space-defying design but also for the quality of craftsmanship.

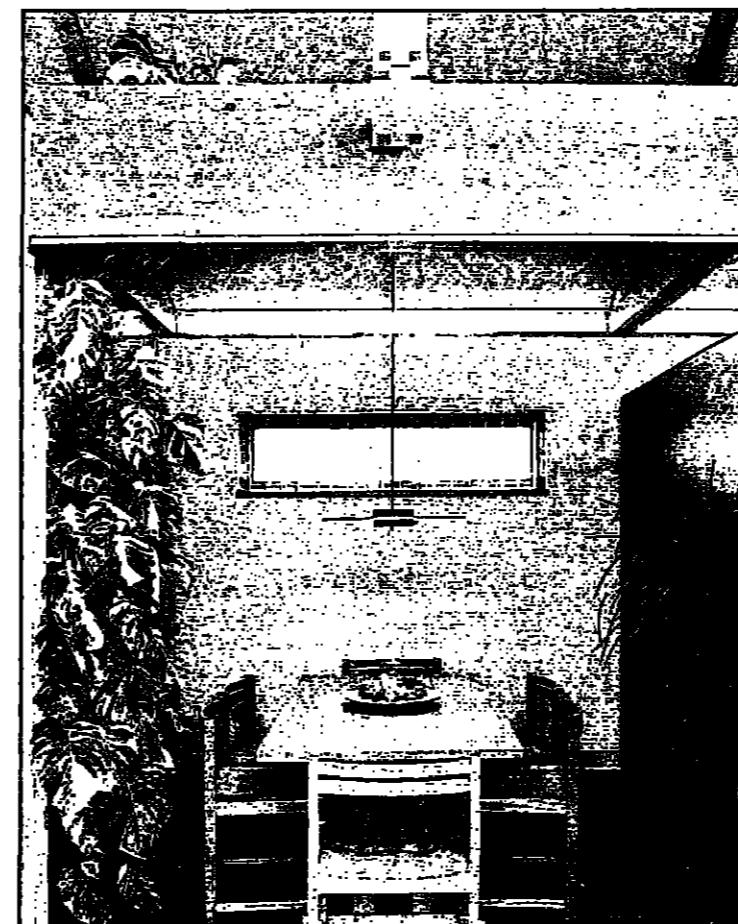
The wood finish throughout is so good that you can't help stroking it. Mr Hart's previous home was a 14th-century timbered house in Suffolk, and he acknowledges vernacular influences like exposed roof beams. None the less, his creation by the Cam is resolutely modern in its approach to layout - to quote the Riba prize jury: "For such a small building, the house has an interior of surprising generosity." If anything, this is an understatement. Modest in scale it may appear from the outside, but inside the effect produces a gasp of amazement.

The house itself occupies just 80 square metres, and to avoid dead corridor space Mr Hart has all but banished interior walls. Yet open plan turns out to be as open as you want it to be. Despite being open to the rafters, the house feels cosy throughout. By clever use of Japanese-style screens and room dividers doubling as storage systems, he has created spacious yet intimate living areas that flow into one another.

The sleek, practical kitchen cleverly colonises the thin end of the wedge-shaped frontage, and the bedrooms occupy the back of the house, which



Apparently modest in scale from the outside, the effect inside produces a gasp of amazement



John Hart

is at a higher level than the living spaces to give a greater sense of privacy and calm. The house is exceptionally light and airy, itself a triumph in the face of adversity.

To squeeze every inch out of the site, Mr Hart needed to build right up to the boundary walls. Neighbours did not want their gardens overlooked, so getting daylight to the interior became his greatest challenge.

While free to put in sliding glass doors linking the interior to the terrace and garden, his solution elsewhere was to install narrow bands of glazing running along between the eaves and the tops of the outside walls. Known as clerestory glazing, this throws light up into the roof void and on a sunny day allows shafts of light to move steadily through the interior, turning it into an impromptu sundial.

Mr Hart was equally determined

that the house should remain private. To make the most of the river view without being overlooked by passers-by, he raised the floor level by half a metre so that you gaze over the heads of even the loftiest rowing Blues.

All the more remarkable is the fact that Mr Hart constructed the house virtually single-handed. He has built traditional wooden boats, but when it came to house-building he admits to having been a novice.

It was not supposed to happen like this. The search for a house in central Cambridge produced nothing but despair and Mr Hart found himself looking for that, rarely, a well-situated brownfield site on which to have a house constructed to his own design.

He planned to carry on working while project managing his own site. However, some builders that he had hired failed to live up to his exacting

standards. They were firmly shown the door, and Mr Hart picked up where they left off.

But the diplomatic mission had to precede the elbow grease. Aware that two planning applications for the site had already failed, he went knocking on neighbours' doors. He presented them with two scale models, one of the dilapidated corrugated-iron repair shop that presently filled the site and the other of the proposed new house. Which would they rather have?

The neighbours were speedily won over, and what looked like the final hurdle - permission to run drains over adjoining private land - was overcome. However, at the 13th hour, neighbours (who have since moved) raised further objections.

For the whole year it took to conclude negotiations, Mr Hart worked on excavating a cellar. Wooden Horse style,

inside the existing structure. Once the derelict shed had been demolished, the project finally had lift-off. At first it was weekend working only but John eventually took the plunge and forsook architectural practice to labour day-in day-out on the house for 18 months. Five years slipped by from the time the site was bought to when the project was completed.

The marathon has paid off. The Hart house in Cambridge stands as a shining example of ingenuity, accessible design. The current crusade is to make use of every scrap of urban brownfield land to build more homes. If only Mr Hart's contemporaries haven't been cloned throughout our inner cities, people would be deserting the suburbs in droves.

John Hart, chartered architect, can be contacted on 01223 364000

## STEPPING STONES

ONE FAMILY'S PROPERTY STORY



DESIGNER CAROLINE

Scott and charity director Carl Poll have bought three properties since 1985. They now live in a Victorian house in Telegraph Hill, south London with their sons Freddie and Billy.

Carl first considered buying back in 1977 while living in Edinburgh: "A studio flat was £750 and a two-bed flat £1,200, sums which were too small to be mortgageable. I considered borrowing from my mum but went to Paris instead."

The Eighties saw Carl living in a Peckham council flat and still reluctant to buy: "I fancied a more Bohemian lifestyle."

Eventually he tired of

"putting money into renting" and felt he should take the plunge. Scouring south-east London, he found that the price of a two-bedroom flat in Brixton would buy a whole house in less popular Brockley. "I wanted enough room for someone to live in and help pay the mortgage."

In 1985 Carl bought a three-bedroom Victorian terraced house for £39,000. Carl's partner, Caroline, was then living in short-life property, but in the frenzy of increasing prices prompted her also to get a foot on the property ladder. In 1987, she moved in with Carl and together with her mother paid £65,500 for a terraced house in Crofton Park which she rented out and believed was a good investment. "By completion it was worth

£78,000, I should probably have sold then."

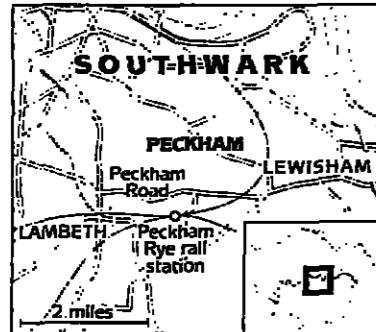
After 10 years in Brockley, Freddie's birth prompted them to buy somewhere together and end the complication of running two households. In 1995 they sold both properties. Crofton Park's value had slipped to £60,000 and the Brockley house, valued in 1989 at £100,000, sold for £75,000. Selling in a slump meant modest profits but the large, and previously unaffordable, houses they had always coveted in Telegraph Hill were now within reach. They paid £90,000 for a three-storey Victorian terraced house and estimate they have spent £35,000 on restoration.

Roger Grover, of Halifax Property Services, says: "Telegraph Hill is the best part of New Cross. It's 15 minutes into the City." GINETTA VEDRICKAS

Those moves in brief... 1985 - bought Brockley terrace for £39,000, sold for £75,000. 1987 - bought Crofton Park house for £65,500, sold for £75,000. 1989 - bought three-storey house in Telegraph Hill for £90,000 now worth £220,000. If you would like your moves to be featured, write to: Nic Cicuti, Stepping Stones, One Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL. £100 will be awarded for the best story.

HOT SPOT  
PECKHAM, SOUTH LONDON

## Ideal for social climbers with a touch of vertigo



**G**entrification comes in different guises, stages and degrees. Peckham has already been discovered, so rock-bottom property prices have come and gone. But Peckham's progress has been tepid. Unlike Notting Hill or Islington, where prices have stratosoared, this once notorious district is still affordable.

The standard London A-Z tells interesting tales. The black lines that symbolise railway routes are thick as they depart London Bridge, but, as they thin out into various branch lines, they seem to bypass Peckham. Actually, the lines curl around and under Peckham, which in its southern reaches is rich in rail service.

Closer scrutiny shows that some streets are packed together and cluttered, but many are fairly wide apart. PDs in A-Zs know that houses here will have large gardens and the zig-zag roads among them will be quiet.

Marc Wiehe, of estate agents Winkworth, lives as well as works in the area, which, he admits, was unsalubrious a few years ago. "The demographics are constantly changing. Peckham used to be known for crime, now it is wall-to-wall Volvo. My wife and I personally experienced more crime when we lived in Kensington."

He notes that Peckham's housing stock is good and that properties even in conservation areas are not that dear. "Rents have gone through the roof. Many people in negative equity cashed in when prices rose, chucked out their tenants and sold. Fewer flats were available to rent, so prices went up sharply," says Mr Wiehe.

For singles with really tight budgets, inexpensive ex-council flats are



Not such a bad area after all... Clifton Crescent, off Asylum Road

Phil Meech

available. For families concerned about space and schools, large houses are available for under £200,000 near the good schools that serve the area.

South Peckham has improved substantially and is now almost indistinguishable from East Dulwich," says Mr Wiehe. "Prices on some of these roads went through the roof, but many houses are still available at prices which are good value."

North Peckham is slowly changing as tower blocks are replaced with more attractive housing, much of it council or housing-association controlled, and some of it privately held.

Another local estate agent, Stephen Smith of Bushells, notes that "outsiders tend to think that Peckham is not a good area to live in. But once they move in they stay. When they have to move, they don't leave the area. They move up within Peckham itself."

ROBERT LIEBMAN

## THE LOW-DOWN

**Prices:** Three-bedroom houses in good condition on or near Asylum Road are available for £110-£15,000, says Stephen Smith, of Bushells. For good value, look at Olander, Nutbrook and Maxted roads. Fairclough is selling new one-, two- and three-bedroom flats at prices up to £33,250.

**Transport:** Peckham straddles zones 2 and 3. No tube, but Peckham Rye overground serves Blackfriars and London Bridge. Buses are good, especially the No 12 to Piccadilly and Oxford Street. Council tax: in Southwark, Band A is £524, Band H is £1,573.

**Home/office:** Some attractively priced shops with flats above are available. Mr Smith says: "If they are on secondary parades, you can generally get change of use for residential or home/office." As the area gentrifies, the number of empty shops should decline.

**Peckham Partnership:** With other interest parties, the council has reached the halfway point in a project to have 3,000 homes demolished and 2,000 new ones built by 2002. Of the new units, 60 per cent will be council owned, 20 per cent housing association, and 20 per cent for sale. "Our aim in part is to reduce housing density," says a council spokesperson.

**Peckham Pulse:** One of the partnership schemes, the Pulse is a complex including swimming and hydrotherapy pools, two aerobics studios, a soft play area and separate health and fitness suites. Other council projects include a modern library with media centre and a comprehensive programme to combat crime. Peckham parks with ponds: The area is well served by Burgess Park in the north and Peckham Rye Common in the south. Estate agents: Bushells (0181-299 1722); Winkworth (0181-299 2722); Fairclough (0171-358 9816).

**WALNUT TREE**  
Cottage, on the edge of Great Saling, in north-west Essex, was built just four years ago in the traditional style of the area. The four-bedroom house has a small annexe, with a shower-room and playroom or office above the garage, and stands in about a third of an acre of gardens. It looks full of old-fashioned character, with exposed timbers and a polished oak strip floor in the reception hall, but it has a 15ft kitchen with gleaming Siemens oven, built-in integrated fridge, freezer and dishwasher and lined oak units with Provencal blue tiled worktops.

There's also a 22ft drawing-room with a massive fireplace of exposed herringbone bricks and a heavy oak beam supporting the chimney breast. Price £270,000; details from Trembath Welch 01371 872117.

**HIGHWINDS**, on the edge of Tavistock, looks as though it's been rooted in the moorland in Devon for more than a hundred years. However, the three-bedroom property was designed by a local architect and built less than 10 years ago.

With views over the town and the Tamar Valley, it has solid stone facing and Delabole slate windowsills.

On the ground floor, there is a dining hall with a Victorian open fire and a maple wood floor; a drawing room with French doors to the garden and a large kitchen-breakfast room with fitted American oak units.

The bedrooms lead from the galleried landing on the first floor, and the lower ground floor is a playroom and utility room. Price £195,000; details from Mansbridge & Balmont 01822 612345.

**THIS ARCHITECT**-designed house in the centre of Ynys Mon, three miles from Llangefni, in Anglesey, was built specially to blend in with surrounding older properties.

The entrance hall has a vaulted ceiling and facing brick on one wall. The 19ft drawing room is panelled in oak and has a period cast-iron fireplace with double doors leading to the conservatory. The kitchen has been divided by a peninsula unit into living and cooking areas and includes a full-height fireplace and built-in pine cupboards. Upstairs there are four bedrooms and a bathroom and shower room. Price £125,000; details from Dafydd Hardy 01248 371212.

ROSALIND RUSSELL

TEL: 0171 293 2222

FAX: 0171 293 2505

## PROPERTY: RESIDENTIAL

**Greece**

**NEFRAKATA VILLAS**  
CEPHALONIA • GREECE

An invitation to enjoy ...

Stylish studios, apartments and luxury villas for sale  
Superb facilities include swimming pool and tennis court  
Unsurpassed quality  
Prices start from only £39,000

**PHONE NOW FOR YOUR FREE BROCHURE**

Selling Agent: Brian A. French Associates, 6 Fleet Road, London NW3 2QS  
Tel: 0171 284 0114 • Fax: 0171 424 9144

## Auctions

## MAJOR REGIONAL PROPERTY AUCTION

Mainly By Order of the Mortgagors Including Halifax PLC

27th JANUARY 1999  
STAKIS WINDMILL HOTEL, LEEDS - 0839 772281

South & West Yorkshire, Tyne & Wear, East Riding of Yorkshire, Durham & Northumberland

28th JANUARY 1999  
GT BARR HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTRE

GT BARR - 0839 772282

Northamptonshire, West Midlands, Northamptonshire, Vale of Glamorgan, North & Port Talbot, Shropshire, Staffordshire & Derbyshire

29th JANUARY 1999  
BAYDOCK PARK RACETRACK - 0839 772283

St. Helens, Lancashire, Cumbria, Cheshire & Merseyside

Call to the number costs 40p a min.

For a fixed fee for each call please call the numbers above.

For a fixed fee for each call please call the numbers above.

For a fixed fee for each call please call the numbers above.

For a fixed fee for each call please call the numbers above.

For a fixed fee for each call please call the numbers above.

For a fixed fee for each call please call the numbers above.

For a fixed fee for each call please call the numbers above.

For a fixed fee for each call please call the numbers above.

For a fixed fee for each call please call the numbers above.

For a fixed fee for each call please call the numbers above.

For a fixed fee for each call please call the numbers above.

For a fixed fee for each call please call the numbers above.

For a fixed fee for each call please call the numbers above.

For a fixed fee for each call please call the numbers above.

For a fixed fee for each call please call the numbers above.

For a fixed fee for each call please call the numbers above.

For a fixed fee for each call please call the numbers above.

For a fixed fee for each call please call the numbers above.

For a fixed fee for each call please call the numbers above.

For a fixed fee for each call please call the numbers above.

For a fixed fee for each call please call the numbers above.

For a fixed fee for each call please call the numbers above.

For a fixed fee for each call please call the numbers above.

For a fixed fee for each call please call the numbers above.

For a fixed fee for each call please call the numbers above.

For a fixed fee for each call please call the numbers above.

For a fixed fee for each call please call the numbers above.

For a fixed fee for each call please call the numbers above.

For a fixed fee for each call please call the numbers above.

For a fixed fee for each call please call the numbers above.

For a fixed fee for each call please call the numbers above.

For a fixed fee for each call please call the numbers above.

For a fixed fee for each call please call the numbers above.

For a fixed fee for each call please call the numbers above.

For a fixed fee for each call please call the numbers above.

For a fixed fee for each call please call the numbers above.

For a fixed fee for each call please call the numbers above.

For a fixed fee for each call please call the numbers above.

For a fixed fee for each call please call the numbers above.

For a fixed fee for each call please call the numbers above.

For a fixed fee for each call please call the numbers above.

For a fixed fee for each call please call the numbers above.

For a fixed fee for each call please call the numbers above.

For a fixed fee for each call please call the numbers above.

For a fixed fee for each call please call the numbers above.

For a fixed fee for each call please call the numbers above.

For a fixed fee for each call please call the numbers above.

For a fixed fee for each call please call the numbers above.

For a fixed fee for each call please call the numbers above.

For a fixed fee for each call please call the numbers above.

For a fixed fee for each call please call the numbers above.

For a fixed fee for each call please call the numbers above.

For a fixed fee for each call please call the numbers above.

For a fixed fee for each call please call the numbers above.

For a fixed fee for each call please call the numbers above.

For a fixed fee for each call please call the numbers above.

For a fixed fee for each call please call the numbers above.

For a fixed fee for each call please call the numbers above.

For a fixed fee for each call please call the numbers above.

For a fixed fee for each call please call the numbers above.

For a fixed fee for each call please call the numbers above.

For a fixed fee for each call please call the numbers above.

For a fixed fee for each call please call the numbers above.

For a fixed fee for each call please call the numbers above.

For a fixed fee for each call please call the numbers above.

For a fixed fee for each call please call the numbers above.

For a fixed fee for each call please call the numbers above.

For a fixed fee for each call please call the numbers above.

For a fixed fee for each call please call the numbers above.

For a fixed fee for each call please call the numbers above.

For a fixed fee for each call please call the numbers above.

For a fixed fee for each call please call the numbers above.

For a fixed fee for each call please call the numbers above.

For a fixed fee for each call please call the numbers above.

For a fixed fee for each call please call the numbers above.

For a fixed fee for each call please call the numbers above.

For a fixed fee for each call please call the numbers above.

For a fixed fee for each call please call the numbers above.

For a fixed fee for each call please call the numbers above.

For a fixed fee for each call please call the numbers above.

For a fixed fee for each call please call the numbers above.

For a fixed fee for each call please call the numbers above.

For a fixed fee for each call please call the numbers above.

For a fixed fee for each call please call the numbers above.

For a fixed fee for each call please call the numbers above.

For a fixed fee for each call please call the numbers above.

For a fixed